

AgriFood Innovation Forum 2023

TOOWOOMBA
18 JULY 2023

EVENT PROGRAM

EVENT FACILITATED BY



TUESDAY, 18 JULY | CONFERENCE PROGRAM

PRELUDE

Students from St Mary's College Toowoomba

OPENING ADDRESS

Justin Heaven, Food Leaders Australia General Manager, TSBE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ashley Williams, Indigenous Business Connector, TSBE

GOVERNMENT KEYNOTE

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr Chris Sarra, Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Brett Spicer, Partner, Sustainability, BDO Australia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pier Smulders, General Manager, Alibaba Inc. NZ/Aus.

MORNING TEA

ENVIRONMENT PANEL

Facilitated by Jayne Thorpe, Executive Director, Stablisth

Charles Starkings, Sustainability Field Manager, Nutrien

Shane Charles, Director, Upscale Carbon

Steve Mackinlay, Head of ESG and Sustainability, Stahmann Webster

SOCIAL PANEL

Facilitated by Mark Mason, Project Manager-Olympic Strategy and Legacy, TSBE

Janine Berry, Innovation Manager, People and Culture, JBS Australia

Kelli McDougall, Managing Director, Agritalent

Michele Berkhout, Director, Corporate Solutions and Industry Engagement, Tafe QLD

LUNCH

SUSTAINABILITY PANEL

Facilitated by Justin Heaven, Food Leaders Australia General Manager, TBSE

James Henderson, Director, AgForce Queensland

Karen Penfold, Company Representative, Four Daughters Beef

Melita Smith, Co-Founder and General Manager Corporate Services, Cerestag

Stephen Wiedemann, Principal Consultant, Integrity Ag Services

INVESTMENT PANEL

Facilitated by Julia Spicer, Queensland Chief Entrepreneur
David Lord, Engagement Manager, GrowAG, Agrifutures
Jack Fitzgerald, Senior Relationship Manager, Suncorp Group
Michael Blakeney, Managing Partner, Riparian Capital Partners

INNOVATION PANEL

Facilitated by Julie Cotter, Independent Innovation Consultant
Dr Ben Baghurst, General Manager, Farmers2Founders
Quentin Kennedy, Managing Director, Kialla Foods
Stephen Hegarty, Integrated Solutions Manager, VNET Precision Farming, RDO Australia

AFTERNOON TEA

GOVERNANCE PANEL

Facilitated by Jo Sheppard, CEO, Queensland Farmers Federation
Louise Venz, Reef Credit Secretariat & Market Development, Eco-Markets Australia
Michael Murray, General Manager, Cotton Australia
Rachel Chambers, CEO, Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Sarah Delahunty, General Manager Impact and Investment, Queensland Trust for Nature

CLOSING COMMENTS

Greg Bowden, CEO, Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

TUESDAY, 18 JULY | GALA DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Callum Hickey, Growth Manager, Urban Utilities

ALGAE PRODUCTION SPOTLIGHT PANEL

Facilitated by Ben Hankamer, Professor, Institute for Molecular Bioscience,
The University of Queensland
Colin McGregor, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Biogenesis Australia
Mark Gustowski, Mandalay VC
Preston Toole, Chief Technology Officer, Provectus Algae
Steve Strutt, AlgaePharm, Woods Group

WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY | SITE TOUR

Site tour location to be finalised.

Please be advised the program is subject to change.

TUESDAY, 18 JULY | MEET THE SPEAKERS



Pier Smulders
General Manager
Alibaba Inc.
NZ/Aus.

Pier Smulders is an accomplished executive with extensive experience in trade, international growth, and government relations. He is currently the General Manager for the Alibaba Group in Australia and New Zealand. In this capacity, he leads the strategy development and implementation for multiple business units, including ecommerce, retail, payments, tourism, cloud services, and wholesale exports. He acts as the public face of the Alibaba Group in the region and works directly with high-profile Australian and New Zealand companies and brands.

Alibaba Group specializes in e-commerce, retail, internet, and technology, operating various online and offline businesses, such as the world's largest online and mobile commerce platforms, Taobao and Tmall, along with AliExpress, Lazada, Alibaba.com and Trendyol.

Pier was educated at Eton and holds a BA from Brown University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. His background in fostering international partnerships, particularly in trade and commerce, positions him as a versatile and valuable speaker for various engagements.



Dr Chris Sarra
Director-General
Department of
Agriculture and
Fisheries

Dr Chris Sarra is a Gurang Gurang/Taribelang man from Bundaberg. In May 2023, Dr Sarra became Director-General for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Dr Sarra's strong and positive sense of culture and identity is leading DAF's continued commitment to working within diverse environments and industries.

Dr Sarra brings a wealth of experience working in complex, economic, scientific and social contexts. His experience as Director-General of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, from 2018–2023, demonstrated incredible things can be achieved through partnerships and in the spirit of helping each other succeed.

Dr Sarra holds a PhD in Psychology from Murdoch University with his thesis Strong and Smart - Towards a Pedagogy for Emancipation: Education for First Peoples published by Routledge in 2012. He also has a Bachelor of Education, Master of Teaching and an Executive Masters in Public Administration. He was named Queenslander of the Year in 2004 and was Queensland's Australian of the Year in 2010.



Brett Spicer
Partner
Sustainability
BDO Australia

Brett is a Sustainability Partner with over 20 years' experience in carbon and natural capital management, sustainability disclosures, and strategic and operational planning, with proven success across a range of industry sectors.

He has been an advisor to multiple government agencies, listed and private companies, agribusinesses, complex industrials, and water corporations on enterprise decarbonisation strategies; climate-related financial risk; renewable energy infrastructure capital allocation; sustainability reporting; and transitioning multi-site portfolios to the low carbon economy.

Environment Panel



Panel Facilitator

Jayne Thorpe

Executive Director

Stablich

Jayne has 20 years experience working across the fields of agriculture, horticulture and conservation throughout Southern Qld. In that time she has seen consistent issues in production transparency and market access on the demand side, along with consistency of data collection and cost of providing evidence to market on the supply side.

She has seen a very clear increase in consumer and investor expectations around how a business makes decisions, deals with people and impacts on the biophysical environment. To these issues and expectations Jayne brings an array of skills and experience from sustainability reporting frameworks, natural resource management, and social services that supports clients to find appropriate responses for their business.



Shane Charles

Director

Upscale Carbon

Shane is currently the CEO and Director of Upscale Carbon, Managing Director of Charles Legal Group, a director of Upscale Funds Management Group and President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland.

Through his leadership, Shane has become well known in business and political circles and as has previously served as Chairman of Stanwell Corporation Limited, Endeavour Foundation, Sunrise Way Rehabilitation Limited, and Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise. He has also held the position of Deputy Chairman of the GasFields Commission of Queensland, and until recently was a Non-Executive Director of ASX listed uranium miner, Energy Resources of Australia Limited.



Steve MacKinlay

Head of ESG and

Sustainability

Stahmann Webster

My career in agriculture started within the Australian and European wine industry 1995. I worked extensively within the UK and European wine trade, progressing from regional account management to lead buyer commercial procurement for one of the UK's largest independent wine merchants.

After completing a certification through Yale University around ESG and Sustainability implementation, Stahmann Webster offered me the opportunity to build a framework for farming around a north American sustainability standard, called Leading Harvest. Currently at Stahmann Webster we have built and implemented a framework bespoke for our tree nut orchards which will deliver an overarching ESG responsibility, while offering a foundational, transparent sustainability framework, with deliverable, tangible outcomes.

Importantly this new direction for our business allows our ethical stewardship of our responsible land management to work in synergy with good business practice, governance of a high standard and importantly ring fenced by environmental responsibility for the land we manage now and for the future.



Charles Starkings
Sustainability Field
Manager
North-East
Nutrien

Charles Starkings is the North-East Sustainability Field Manager for Nutrien Ag Solutions. Charles is responsible for promoting sustainable practices on farms throughout his region to benefit growers profitability and the environment. Charles worked as an agronomist in the United Kingdom for 18 years, that role had an emphasis on helping his clients achieve farm regulatory and environmental compliance.

He has a passion for driving efficiencies and creating opportunities with good commercial and environmental outcomes for farms in an ever-changing industry.

Social Panel



Panel Facilitator

Mark Mason

Project Manager, Olympic Strategy and Legacy Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon TSBE, in partnership with Toowoomba Regional Council, is delivering a project targeted at identifying and capturing opportunities across the region that will stem from the delivery of The Games. Mark has been appointed to capture and develop these opportunities and to provide advocacy for the region in the lead up to The Games.

With experience gleaned from the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the London 2012 Olympics Mark has a well-developed understanding of the development and delivery of an Olympic Games and a deep appreciation of the benefits Olympic Legacy can bring to the region. Mark also has a broad understanding of the mechanics of community development and the importance of balancing commercial activity and social cohesion to improve the liveability of the region.

Mark is actively pursuing opportunities for the region in agriculture, sports infrastructure, tourism, energy and community development that are linked to Brisbane 2032.



Janine Berry

Innovation Manager People and Culture JBS Australia

Janine's interests are primarily in the area of strategic business improvement and alignment. This involves an awareness of the context in which an organisation operates, an understanding of external trends and influences, and the capability to "pivot" in response to changes in the environment.

Janine has more than 20 years' experience as a Manager and consultant facilitating organisational strategy, workplace design and business improvement. After 10 years working as an independent consultant, Janine is currently HR Business Partner with JBS Australia but until recently was employed as JBS's Australia's Innovation Manager – People and Culture. In this role, Janine led a shift from project-based innovation to a more strategic innovation management model.

JBS Australia is Australia's largest food manufacturer operating technologically advanced production and value-added facilities and feedlots, whilst also owning Australia's largest smallgoods manufacturer, and operating a leading high-quality meat cutting and case ready production facility.



Michele Berkhout

Director Corporate Solutions and Industry Engagement Tafe Queensland

Michele is Director, Corporate Solutions and Industry Engagement at TAFE Queensland South West Region with responsibility for developing, promoting and facilitating relationships between TAFE Queensland, Industry, governments and community representatives and groups.

Michele is also a member of the TAFE Queensland Sustainability Committee, providing regional advocacy and thought leadership underpinned by a progressive and collaborative approach to partnering for innovation to find new ways to solve sustainability related issues.

Michele is driven by transparency through data, and informed by experiences in Africa and Australia, embraces the UN SDGs as a framework to track and report on social and environmental impacts. This provides the evidence to orchestrate collaborative change and demonstrate how sustainability can be leveraged to build stronger, more resilient businesses, communities and regions.



Kelli McDougall
Managing Director
AgriTalent

'Understanding why people do what they do in the workplace, having them love coming to work and getting really good results – that's my specialty, and I'm excited to do it for Agri Talent clients.'

With more than two decades of strategic and hands-on experience in recruitment and HR consultancy, Kelli brought her renowned skills to Agri Talent, where she now serves as General Manager – overseeing quality permanent recruitment and executive search services for the Australian agriculture industry.

In her role at Agri Talent, Kelli leads a team of consultants who focus on thinking outside the box, and challenge clients in order to get the best possible results and maximise their bottom line. Returning full-circle to the agriculture industry in which she grew up, Kelli deftly applies her generalist experience to the sector she regards as the most important in Australia – encouraging clients to embrace innovation and technology in order to successfully meet the challenges of a new era.

Sustainability Panel



Panel Facilitator

Justin Heaven

General Manager

Food Leaders Australia

Toowoomba and Surat

Basin Enterprise

Justin Heaven is the General Manager, Food and Agribusiness with TSBE Food Leaders Australia, bringing to the role a wealth of experience from across agriculture, export market development and international trade. Justin holds a Diploma of Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland and has completed further studies in project management, business and export market development.

Justin is passionate about agriculture, export and working with local agribusinesses to identify opportunities, barriers and pathways to implement change, meet growth aspirations and achieve strategic business objectives. Justin is eager to assist members explore new markets, business opportunities and achieve your business goals.



James Henderson

Director

Agforce

Karen Penfold is co-founder of the Four Daughters beef brand. The Penfold family operate a beef enterprise from Meandarra, South West Queensland.

The families mission is to produce consistent high quality beef, while caring for their animals and environment so they here for generations to come.

Their vision is FAMILY WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE

They want to share their story of provenance and build connections with consumers.



Karen Penfold

Company Representative

Four Daughters Beef



Melita Smith
Co-Founder and General
Manager-Corporate
Services
Cerestag

Melita is a Co-Founder and General Manager, Corporate Services having been with Ceres Tag throughout its journey. Hailing from a 6th generation cattle farming family, in the South Burnett, Melita is passionate about the agricultural industry and animal health and her role as a female business owner in raising the profile of women in business within the industry.

Melita has a professional background in education and brings a strong understanding of team and change management. Melita has a Bachelor of Teaching and a Master of Education. Melita has a lifetimes commitment to agriculture, member of AICD, Queensland Rural Regional and Remote Women's Network and Australian Women in Agriculture.



Dr Stephen Wiedeman
Managing Director
Integrity Ag and
Environment

Dr Stephen Wiedemann founder and Managing Director of Integrity Ag and Environment, a specialist agri-environmental consulting company. Coming from a mixed farming background and with almost 20 years in agri-environmental research and consulting, Steve's key areas of expertise include decarbonisation of agri-food and fibre supply chains, Carbon and Environmental Footprinting, carbon neutrality, carbon markets and environmental management.

Integrity Ag and Environment are Australia's experts in ag-sector decarbonisation and sustainability assessment.

Investment Panel



Panel Facilitator
Julia Spicer
Queensland Chief
Entrepreneur

Julia Spicer OAM was appointed as Queensland's fifth Chief Entrepreneur in late 2022. Julia approaches this role with a strong focus on bringing the wealth of knowledge from the regions and creating connections throughout the Queensland Innovation Ecosystem to unlock practical solutions and tangible outcomes. Julia's priorities in her term as Queensland Chief Entrepreneur are:

Resilience and Transition - Build a sustainable and resilient innovation ecosystem where communities, people and planet are supported, protected and prosperous
Impact - Advocate for innovation and entrepreneurship in Queensland, driving positive economic and social impact for Queenslanders
Connection - Foster a connected and thriving Queensland innovation ecosystem ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all

Julia is the Founder of multiple regional businesses based in Goondiwindi, Qld - Engage & Create Consulting. Julia continues to run her businesses and has a particular gift for engaging woman and First Nations businesses in her work.



Michael Blakeney
Managing Partner and
Chair
Riparian Capital Partners

Michael is a Managing Partner of RCP, Chairman of the Board and holds primary responsibility for the diversified agricultural investment strategies of the firm.

Michael holds a Master of Science (University of London), a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (University of Queensland), and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Agribusiness Executive Program (Harvard University). Michael is the secretary of the Queensland Rural Press Club and immediate past Chair of the USQ Centre for Ag Engineering.

Over the last 20 years Michael has been responsible for a number of institutional agricultural investment portfolio's on behalf of Australian and International investors. This experience includes the full investment cycle through to exit.



Jack Fitzgerald
Senior Relationship
Manager
Suncorp Group

Currently leading Suncorp Bank's Agribusiness & Regional Business banking in Southern Queensland, Jack has been a regionally based Agribusiness banker for the past 9 years. With prior banking roles focussed on rural family business in Toowoomba, Gippsland and Townsville.

Having completed at Bachelor of Agricultural Science Jack moved to Queensland to work as an agronomist for the Qld DPI before joining Suncorp Bank. Industry and community involvement include prior board member of GippsDairy and current committee member of the UnisQ Rugby Club in Toowooba.



David Lord
Engagement Manager
GrowAG
Agrifutures

David is an Engagement Manager for AgriFutures growAG. (www.growag.com), Australia's online agrifood innovation marketplace. He works with Research and Development Corporations (RDCs), investors, corporates, universities, CSIRO, state ag departments and start-ups to connect their agrifood research, commercial and investment opportunities with a global audience.

David's experience spans the intersection between farming, R&D management, research extension, innovation commercialisation and policy development. His experience and interests in the grains and beef cattle industries drives his enthusiasm for the future of agriculture and the role innovation plays in unlocking Australia's potential.

Innovation Panel



Panel Facilitator

Julie Cotter

Independent

Innovation Consultant

Julie is a problem solver with a track record of successfully combining business and scientific expertise to drive innovation. She has held positions with large vertically integrated agribusinesses including Chair of Stahmann Webster's Farming Technology Group and as a member of Australian Agricultural Company's (AACo) Scientific Advisory Board.

Julie is an Emeritus Professor of UniSQ where she led a research centre focused on innovation in agribusiness and supply chains.



Dr Ben Baghurst

General Manager

Farmers2Founders

Ben is Farmers2Founders' General Manager and works within agricultural supply chains to accelerate AgTech development, commercialisation, and adoption.

He loves innovating to create impact and has done so for close to 20 years developing and managing large-scale agribusiness, water, carbon, sustainability, and hi-tech sector programs for Government.

Ben has a PhD in biology from Flinders University and is naturally collaborative, solutions focussed, likes to inspire, and has a futuristic outlook.



Stephen Hegarty

**Manager, Integrated
Solutions**

**Vanderfield, RDO
Equipment**

After studying Agricultural Science at University of Qld, Steve worked for 10 years providing field agronomy services to broadacre grain growers on the western Darling Downs. Steve then joined RDO Equipment in 2012 as Integrated Solutions Manager to lead the company's Precision Agriculture strategy and Business Development projects.

Over the 11 years in this role, Steve has seen increased adoption by farmers of GPS enabled machine automation, plus spatial data collection used by farmers and agronomists for decision support. Much of Steve's current focus is on preparing the RDO Equipment business and its customers for future Precision Ag developments, including autonomous equipment with artificial intelligence capabilities and increasing data collection for legislative, agronomic and traceability requirements. Steve enjoys the opportunities this role provides to understand the agribusiness processes of primary producers, identify their challenges and develop solutions to suit, that are both profitable and sustainable.



Quentin Kennedy
Managing Director
Kialla Foods

Quentin and his family are currently the majority owners of Kialla Pure Foods, an organic cereal grain processing operation based on the Darling Downs. This business supplies organic product to retail, manufacturing and wholesaling operations throughout Australia, as well as exporting product into Asia and New Zealand.

The sister company to Kialla, Ausorganic Feeds, supplies certified organic stockfeed into both commercial and retail operations. Quentin spent 14 years on the Board of Australian Organic Limited, the organic Industry's Peak body, stepping down in 2019. He is the Chairman of DIT Agtech, an agtech startup specialising in the delivery of supplements via drinking water to ruminant animals.

Governance Panel



Panel Facilitator

Jo Sheppard
CEO
Queensland Farmers
Federation

Originally from a sheep and cattle property near Cunnamulla in far SW Queensland, Jo has worked across a number of industries from agriculture, small business and local government to education, communications and the NFP sector developing skills in both public and private sectors. Jo operated her own business for 10 years delivering Vocational Education and Training to the agricultural industry partnering with RTO's across Queensland and NSW.

Formerly an elected councillor for 12 years including Mayor for 4 years with the Paroo Shire Council, Jo has a sound understanding of regional and remote Queensland and extensive experience in economic development and advocacy.

Previously the CEO with the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, and Director – Stakeholder Engagement with the University of Southern Queensland, Jo is now CEO with the Queensland Farmers Federation.

Jo holds a Bachelor of Business (University of Sydney), a Diploma in Executive Leadership (Oxford University) and is an Australian Institute of Company Directors graduate and currently the Chair of Eco-Markets Australia.



Rachel Chambers
CEO
Queensland Fruit and
Vegetable Growers

Rachel is CEO of QLD Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Queensland's state industry body representing fruit, vegetable, and nut growers. A true advocate for growers, her least favourite phrase to hear is "I'm just a farmer". "Farmers are entrepreneurs, logistics experts, scientists, managers, investors, recruiters, marketers, negotiators and have been exporting overseas since before it was considered the thing to do".

In her role, Rachel also leads the Fair Farms program, Australia's first industry owned social compliance training and certification program, manages Hort 360, Horticulture's best management practice program and administers Reef Certification to provide a quality, credible certification pathway for horticulture growers to demonstrate their environmental stewardship and industry best practice standards in the Great Barrier Reef catchments.



Sarah Delahunty
General Manager,
Impact and Investment
Queensland Trust for
Nature

Working as a Stakeholder Engagement and Corporate Partnership professional over many years and across a variety of industries Sarah has seen the evolution of ESG from the 'nice to have' social licence to operate to the essential business governance lens of ESG.

Identifying the changing ways stakeholders wanted to receive information and the confusion around how organisations could collect and report the information Sarah started ESG Explored in early 2022 as a way to provide practical advice and information.



Michael Murray
General Manager
Cotton Australia

Michael Murray is the General Manager of Cotton Australia, where among other roles, he heads the policy team, and has particular responsibility for Water Policy.

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australian cotton growers. As an industry, the cotton has been measuring key metrics of its environmental performance since the early 1990's. This task has grown in both breadth and importance over the years.



Louise Venz
Market Development
Officer
Reef Credit Secretariat
Eco-Markets Australia

As Market Development Officer and Reef Credit Secretariat, Louise is responsible for developing new markets for the country's first independent administrator of environmental markets and ensuring integrity of the Reef Credit Scheme. Louise joined Eco-Markets Australia in February 2021 as Executive Officer, bringing her stakeholder engagement and project management skills to the start-up organisation.

Louise led the transition of the Reef Credit Scheme from beta phase to fully operational, including development of Eco-Markets Australia's first environmental registry and review of the entire scheme framework. In her current role, Louise works with developing Standards and Methodologies to transition them into market opportunities and provides technical oversight to the Reef Credit Scheme, including coordinating review of new and existing methodologies, exploring co-benefit opportunities and working with stakeholders to ensure the program delivers the highest level of integrity to project participants and investors

TUESDAY, 18 JULY | GALA DINNER SPEAKERS



Keynote

Callum Hickey

Growth Manager

Urban Utilities



Panel Facilitator

Ben Hankamer

Professor

Institute for Molecular

Bioscience, The University

of Queensland



Mark Gutowski

Partner & Chair Investment

Committee

Mandalay Venture Partners

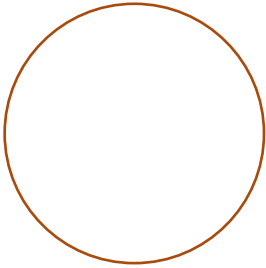


Colin McGregor
Chief Executive Officer
and Executive Director
Biogenesis Australia

Mr McGregor is one of Australia's most experienced commercial algae producers and has commissioned large scale algae growth systems both within Australia and abroad. Colins interest in algae originated while working as a Senior Engineer at Qantas Airways, looking for viable sources of Sustainable Aviation Fuel. He subsequently left Qantas to work for an Australian company producing jet fuel from algae. He then moved on to developing large scale natural algae growth systems for human health supplements and agricultural products.

Colin founded BioGenesis in 2017 as a truly Australian company with the mission to provide the platform for algae to achieve the great promise and potential that it has for the planet.

Colin holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), a Bachelor of Engineering BE (Hons 1st class), a Bachelor of Manufacturing Management (BMM) and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD). Colin is also a certified Master Project Director, winning the national Australian Institute of Project Management Achievement Award.



Steve Strutt
AlgaePharm
Woods Group



Preston Toole
Chief Technology Officer
Provectus Algae

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