

AgriFood Innovation Forum 2023

TOOWOOMBA
18 JULY 2023

EVENT PROGRAM

TAFE Queensland
Regional Innovation Hub



MAKE
GREAT
HAPPEN

Gala Dinner Sponsor



Lanyard Sponsor



Catering Sponsor



Site Tour Sponsor



Coffee Partner



Event facilitated by



Digital Satchel Sponsors



TUESDAY, 18 JULY | CONFERENCE PROGRAM

- 9am** **PRELUDE**
Students from St Mary's College Toowoomba
- 9.05am** **OPENING ADDRESS**
Justin Heaven, Food Leaders Australia General Manager, TSBE
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
Ashley Williams, Indigenous Business Connector, TSBE
- 9.25am** **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Dr Chris Sarra, Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- 9.50am** **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Brett Spicer, Partner, Sustainability, BDO Australia
- 10.15am** **MORNING TEA**
- 10.45am** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION**
Pru Bennett, Chairman, National Foundation for Australia-China Relations
- 10.50am** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Pier Smulders, General Manager, Alibaba Inc. NZ/Aus.
- 11.25am** **Q & A WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**
Facilitated by Greg Bowden, CEO, TSBE
- ENVIRONMENT PANEL**
Facilitated by Jayne Thorpe, Executive Director, Stablisth
11.55am Shane Charles, Director, Upscale Carbon
Steve Mackinlay, Head of ESG and Sustainability, Stahmann Webster
Charles Starkings, Sustainability Field Manager, Nutrien
- SOCIAL PANEL**
Facilitated by Mark Mason, Project Manager-Olympic Strategy and Legacy, TSBE
12.25pm Michele Berkhout, Director, Corporate Solutions and Industry Engagement, Tafe QLD
Janine Berry, Innovation Manager, People and Culture, JBS Australia
Kelli McDougall, Managing Director, Agritalent
- 12.55pm** **LUNCH**
- 1.45pm** **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Dr Stephen Wiedemann, Principal Consultant, Integrity Ag Services
- SUSTAINABILITY PANEL**
Facilitated by Justin Heaven, Food Leaders Australia General Manager, TSBE
2.00pm James Henderson, Director, AgForce Queensland
Karen Penfold, Company Representative, Four Daughters Beef
Melita Smith, Co-Founder and General Manager Corporate Services, Cerestag
Dr Stephen Wiedemann, Principal Consultant, Integrity Ag Services

INVESTMENT PANEL

Facilitated by Julia Spicer, Queensland Chief Entrepreneur
2.40pm Michael Blakeney, Managing Partner, Riparian Capital Partners
Jack Fitzgerald, Senior Relationship Manager, Suncorp Group
David Lord, Engagement Manager, GrowAG, Agrifutures

INNOVATION PANEL

Facilitated by Julie Cotter, Independent Innovation Consultant
3.10pm Dr Ben Baghurst, General Manager, Farmers2Founders
Stephen Hegarty, Integrated Solutions Manager, VNET Precision Farming, RDO Australia
Quentin Kennedy, Managing Director, Kialla Foods

3.40pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

GOVERNANCE PANEL

Facilitated by Jo Sheppard, CEO, Queensland Farmers Federation
4.00pm Rachel Chambers, CEO, Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Michael Murray, General Manager, Cotton Australia
Sarah Delahunty, General Manager Impact and Investment, Queensland Trust for Nature
Louise Venz, Reef Credit Secretariat & Market Development, Eco-Markets Australia

5.00pm **CLOSING COMMENTS**
Greg Bowden, CEO, TSBE

TUESDAY, 18 JULY | GALA DINNER | 6:30PM

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
Philippe Ceulen, Partner, Mandalay Venture Partners
Frank Mason, Chief Executive Officer, Agriculture, Biogenesis Australia
Preston Toole, Chief Technology Officer, Provectus Algae
Steve Strutt, AlgaePharm, Woods Group

WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY | SITE TOUR

7.45am **ARRIVAL INCLUDING BREAKFAST**
The Rock, 520-526 Ruthven St, Toowoomba City

8am **VIRTUAL TOUR AND PRESENTATION**
Lockyer Valley Fruit and Vegetable Processing facility **virtual tour**

8.45am **BUS DEPARTURE**
Sunny Queen Eggs Platinum Pulp facility
Stahmann Webster facility

12.40pm **BUS RETURNS**

TUESDAY, 18 JULY | MEET THE SPEAKERS



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 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.



Pru Bennett
Chairman
The National Foundation
for Australia China
Relations

Ms Pru Bennett is a senior business leader with extensive experience working across greater China and Asia, and has a deep understanding of China's economic relationships.

Having held roles engaging at senior levels in business and advising key economic and financial regulators in Hong Kong and Singapore, Ms Bennett has an insight into the challenges and opportunities of managing business, trade and investment between greater China and the region, and in corporate and board governance.

Until recently, she was a Managing Director and Head of Investment Stewardship for the Asia-Pacific region for BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, with over US\$7 trillion under management. She is now a Partner at the global strategic advisory firm, Brunswick Group, and an independent corporate governance advisor.



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.



Greg Bowden

CEO

Toowoomba and Surat

Basin Enterprise

Greg Bowden is a seasoned executive with a distinguished career in economic development, particularly in the mining, renewable energy, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, major events and public sector environments. Recently appointed to the role of Chief Executive at TSBE, Greg has hit the ground running and is ready to implement initiatives that deliver long-term economic benefits and growth opportunities for the region.

He is passionate about regional development and firmly believes that the economic growth produced by regional Australian communities is critical to our nation's past, present and future success.

**Have a question for
our panels?**

**Submit your question by
scanning the QR code**

*Please note submissions are monitored
and selected by the panel facilitator*



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

Steve's career in agriculture started within the Australian and European wine industry in 1995. He 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 Steve the opportunity to build a framework for farming around a north American sustainability standard, called Leading Harvest. Currently Stahmann Webster have built and implemented a framework bespoke for tree nut orchards which will deliver an overarching ESG responsibility, while offering a foundational, transparent sustainability framework, with deliverable, tangible outcomes.



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, which helped 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 Brisbane 2032.

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 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. 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

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.

Keynote Speech



Dr Stephen Wiedemann

**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.

Sustainability Panel



Panel Facilitator

Justin Heaven

**General Manager
Food Leaders Australia
Toowoomba and Surat
Basin Enterprise**

Justin Heaven is the General Manager, Food Leaders Australia 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**

James Henderson and his wife Kylie and three kids run 5400ha across three properties in the North Burnett and Southern Central Queensland. The introduction of cattle rotation and two vegetation-based carbon framing projects in 2017 have transformed the business and landscape outcomes without hindering production. James has spent the last 6 years in various roles in AgForce using his detailed knowledge of carbon farming and Natural Capital to help producers.

He was also one of the architects behind the AgForces' natural capital accounting program, AgCare. Two years ago, with some other producers, he co-founded 'Isidore agri and eco solutions' to help landholders get real on the ground advice about carbon and other environmental markets.



Karen Penfold
Company Representative
Four Daughters Beef

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

The family's 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.



Melita Smith
Co-Founder and General
Manager-Corporate
Services
Ceres tag

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 lifetime commitment to agriculture, member of AICD, Queensland Rural Regional and Remote Women's Network and Australian Women in Agriculture.

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 AICD 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 and 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 Toowoomba.



David Lord
Engagement Manager
GrowAG
Agrifutures

David is an Engagement Manager for AgriFutures growAG, 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

RDO Equipment

After studying Agricultural Science at UQ, 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.



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 and 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, 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

**MAKE
GREAT
HAPPEN**



TAFE Queensland Regional Innovation Hub Trade Stalls





Callum Hickey is an innovation and commercialisation professional focused on the profitable development of physical science solutions across all stages of technology readiness.

He's worked with waste-to-profit and circular economy technologies and their commercialisation for over a decade, spearheading the formation of companies like CelluAir. Callum is now focused on the central role Urban Utilities can play in transitioning the local area towards the circular economy.

Keynote

Callum Hickey

Growth Manager

Urban Utilities



Ben Hankamer is a Professor at the Institute of Molecular Bioscience (UQ) and a Director of the Solar Biofuels Consortium where they are developing high-efficiency microalgal biofuel systems and conducts bio-discovery, marine biology, structural biology, molecular biology, microbiology, genomics, metabolomics, culture optimisation and bioreactor scale up within a coordinated research program of parallel research streams.

Panel Facilitator

Prof Ben Hankamer

Professor

Institute for Molecular

Bioscience, The University

of Queensland



Philippe Ceulen

Partner

Mandalay Venture

Partners

Philippe is an experienced founder and startup community leader who is passionate about building ecosystems and exploring emerging technologies with early stage founders. As former Head of Programs at Creative Enterprise Australia (CEA), he led the design, development and execution of programs to support entrepreneurs across their journey from start to scale: community, coworking, incubation, acceleration and investment.

Philippe is a partner at Innovation Architects, an ecosystem-focused innovation consultancy that partners with industry, academia and governments on strategy and delivery of entrepreneurship, venture building, market access, business growth and investment initiatives. In addition, Philippe is a Partner in the Australian agrifood tech fund Mandalay VC.



Frank Mason
Chief Executive Officer
Agriculture
Biogenesis Australia

Frank is the CEO of Genesis Algae Innovation with 35 years experience in agribusiness and natural resource management, 26 years in Qld State Government in agriculture, natural resource management and economic development. Frank manages algae farm operations in Bowen, product development in carbon sequestration, animal and horticulture formulations.

He is the Director of Mackay Innovation Centre and heads up innovation/research for Genesis Algae Innovation, along with being the Director of New Life Foundation, registered charity both domestically and internationally focussed on child welfare and education in developing countries.



Steve Strutt
AlgaePharm
Woods Group

Steve has spent the past 30 years providing process solutions for an array of businesses and stepped into the Algae Pharm Manager role with Woods Group in 2019.

It was at this time that the team began their project of growing algae at their Goondiwindi site and since then Steve has passionately educated the wider community on the endless benefits and uses of plant based omega 3.

As the project continues to expand, Steve along with team at Algae Pharm, are continuing to focus on research, development and innovation in order to fulfill their vision of operating a production facility that can provide essential ingredients for generations to come.



Preston Toole
Chief Technology Officer
Provectus Algae

Lifelong aquaculture professional who started growing microalgae at 14 in bivalve hatcheries, Preston has transitioned to a career in the design and development of automated plants producing everything from fish, to seaweed to algae at scale. He spent 6 years in Hawaii building out fish farms, 8 years in Asia building selective breeding facilities and pearl operations and another 5 years travelling the world with an Israeli company, Aquamaof building 10,000-20,000 MT automated plants in Indonesia, Japan, Slovakia, Russia, Canada, Poland and Israel.

He is the CTO of Provectus building the next generation of automated facilities for the production of speciality ingredients and pioneering machine learning applications in product development.

AgriFood Innovation Forum 2023

Have a question for
our panels?

Submit your question by
scanning the QR code

*Please note submissions are monitored
and selected by the panel facilitator*



TAFE Queensland
Regional Innovation Hub

Event Facilitated by

**MAKE
GREAT
HAPPEN**

