

Date	Speaker	Description
<p>4 August 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Cathy McGowan</p>	<p>Cathy came to national attention when she won the seat of Indi as an independent in 2013. The community backed her again in 2016. In 2019 Indi made Australian political history when Dr Helen Haines was elected as Indi's second, independent woman. During her time as a politician Cathy actively worked in Parliament to develop policy around regional development, constitutional change for first nation's people and a solution to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers.</p> <p>Since leaving politics she has been active in supporting the community independents movement and is currently the Chair of AgriFutures a national agricultural research and development corporation.</p> <p>In 2019 she was awarded The Accountability Round Table award for political integrity. She is an Officer in the Order of Australia, a Churchill fellow and lives very happily on her farm in the Indigo Valley in NE Victoria.</p> <p>A sixth generation farmer, Cathy McGowan's life has been characterised by strong family and community connections, and a love for rural Australia.</p>
<p>25 August 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Paul Burke</p>	<p>Paul recently started his own business, North Australia Consultancy Specialists (NACS). He seeks to influence key decision makers to support responsible agriculture developments, bespoke project solutions to industry issues and support a wide variety of agriculture opportunities in the North.</p> <p>Paul has extensive experience in agriculture, working in government and non-government roles advocating and supporting the agricultural sector. He worked in AgForce Queensland as the State Operations Manager and was the Chief Executive Officer for NT Cattlemen's Association, CEO of NT Farmers, CEO of the Forestry Industry Association and was the Director of Infrastructure Assets and Major Projects for the NT Government Department of Primary Industries and Resources.</p> <p>Paul currently serves as the Independent Chair for the Research Institute for Northern Agriculture (Charles Darwin University), founding board member of the Northern Drought Hub, and Public Officer for the Northern Cotton Growers Association.</p>



Date	Speaker	Description
<p>8 September 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Beth Woods</p>	<p>Beth retired in 2021 as Director-General of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries where she led development initiatives to deliver an innovative, productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.</p> <p>Previously Beth was the foundation Director of the University of Queensland Rural Extension Centre, and Professor of Agribusiness at UQ from 1997-2004.</p> <p>Beth has served on boards and committees including for the Grains Research & Development Corporation, the CSIRO Board, the Gatton College Council and the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority Board (now QRIDA). Beth chaired RIRDC (now AgriFutures), ACIAR, a National Drought Policy Review, the International Rice Research Institute and WorldFish. Beth was the inaugural independent Chair of the Policy Council of Cattle Council of Australia, and a Member of the Queensland Government Native Vegetation Scientific Expert Panel in 2021-22. She is currently a Commissioner for International Agricultural Research with ACIAR and Chair of the Australian Institute of Marine Science Council.</p>
<p>22 September 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Mike Guerin</p>	<p>Michael Guerin is a senior executive with experience working with major corporations, running large farming operations, advancing agricultural research and increasing international trade.</p> <p>Growing up on a family farm in New Zealand, Mike has held numerous senior executive roles in large corporations throughout this career, including Regional and Rural Banking Managing Director at ANZ, and Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer at Elders. Michael has been Chief Executive Officer of AgForce Queensland since October 2017.</p>

Date	Speaker	Description
<p>20 October 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Senator Susan McDonald</p>	<p>Senator McDonald is Shadow Minister for Resources, Shadow Minister for Northern Australia.</p> <p>From growing up on her family’s cattle property in north-west Queensland to running a business in south-east Queensland, Senator McDonald has a deep appreciation of the issues affecting people in northern Australia.</p> <p>Senator McDonald was raised near Cloncurry and educated by Correspondence School and Mt Isa School of the Air before attending boarding school in Brisbane and studying commerce and economics at the University of Queensland.</p> <p>Senator McDonald is a qualified accountant and a mum to three kids, she also ran a chain of butcher shops for six years, responsible for over 100 staff across five stores, before being elected to the Australian Senate for Queensland in 2019.</p> <p>Senator McDonald is based in Townsville, making her the Coalition’s northernmost Senator in Australia.</p> <p>Senator McDonald holds roles in which she will be able to help grow the country’s most productive regions for the benefit of all Australians.</p>
<p>3 November 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Lois Ransom</p>	<p>Lois Ransom has over 35 years of experience in all aspects of plant health, including applied plant pathology, diagnostics, surveillance and integrated controls, pest risk analysis, biosecurity risk management, emergency plant pest responses and technical market access. She has extensive experience in policy development and implementation at state, national and international levels and in a range of forums including national committees and strategies. She has been party to and led many official bilateral technical market access negotiations between Australia and other countries to facilitate safe trade in plants and plant products.</p>

Date	Speaker	Description
<p>17 November 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>PANEL: Grassroots Leadership (Indigenous Rangers)</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been the traditional custodians of this continent for over 65,000 years. Indigenous rangers play a key role in Australia’s ability to maintain an early detection system for exotic pests and diseases across northern Australia.</p> <p>This panel event will highlight the work undertaken by the Indigenous Rangers across northern Australia, share their stories, and understand their perspectives on biosecurity. Through this panel presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to see the critical role rangers play in helping to keep out weeds, plant and animal pests and diseases; gain insight into their own journey; and obtain awareness of some of the challenges they face.</p>
<p>1 December 2023</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Suzi Hullick</p>	<p>Westpac Group Head of Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Suzi Hullick is leading the agenda to support a changing workforce, with 20+ years of extensive senior leadership experience in both Commercial and Retail Banking, and was instrumental in developing the Westpac Group Indigenous banking team where for 7 years she worked extensively with Indigenous communities throughout Australia. Suzi was the recipient of the Inaugural Westpac Women of Influence in 2013 for her work in facilitating the commencement of the Indigenous Employment Strategy within the Group.</p> <p>Suzi is also a non-Executive Director on the Board of Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and a director of the new NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation.</p>
<p>23 February 2024</p> <p>12.30-1.30 (NT) 1.00-2.00 (Qld) 11.00-12.00 (WA)</p>	<p>Anthony Wilkes</p>	<p>With a mixed farming background, Anthony Wilkes has held a variety of positions moving from cattle to wine. He is a highly regarded corporate leader with over 20 years’ experience in the agribusiness and food beverage industries.</p> <p>Graduating from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Business (Agriculture), Anthony joined Heytesbury Pastoral Company to launch a career in agribusiness and food beverage that also included senior roles with premium wine companies Ferngrove and Howard Park & Madfish Wines. As project manager for Palandri in 1998, Mr Wilkes oversaw the construction of the largest vineyard in WA at the time, working his way up the company and became chief operating officer by the age of 28. Under his direction, Ferngrove Wine Group sales increased by 27%+ consecutively since his appointment as Chief Executive in 2004. In February 2020, he moved from the wine industry to become Chief Executive of Yeeda Pastoral Company.</p>