



Day 1 — Tuesday 4 March 2025

9.00 am – 9.25 am

Conference opening

MC

Kate Banville

Journalist

Welcome to Country

Selina Walker

Ngunnawal Woman

Minister's opening address

The Hon Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

9.25 am - 10.40 am

Session 1

Driving agriculture's productivity and sustainable success

Agriculture today faces unprecedented challenges. Climate change, geopolitical turmoil and shifting market dynamics demand innovative solutions and adaptive strategies. Understanding the economic trends and productivity hurdles is essential for developing resilient and sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors and their respective supply chains.

MC

Kate Banville

Journalist

Keynotes

Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director, ABARES

Economic outlook for Australian agriculture

Professor Alex Robson

Deputy Chair, Productivity Commission

Australia's productivity challenge

Ben van Delden

Climate and Agrifood Partner, Deloitte

Transforming Australia into a food superpower

10.40 am – 11.15 am

Morning tea and networking

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

Session 2

Commodities spotlight: navigating future trends and opportunities

A panel of ABARES commodity and farm data analysts will discuss the medium-term economic outlook for key agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector commodities and farm incomes. The anticipated economic conditions and their implications for key commodities is vital to understanding the magnitude of the opportunity for the sector.

Panel moderator

Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director, ABARES

Panel

Emily Dahl

Grains and oilseeds

Gaby Coulthard

Livestock commodities: Meat, wool and dairy

Fred Litchfield

Horticulture and wine

Patrick Mulcahy

Australian farm performance

Harrison Tuynman

Fisheries

Stephanie Black

Forestry

12.30 pm – 1.45 pm

Lunch and networking





Day 1 — Tuesday 4 March 2025

1.45 pm – 3.00 pm

Session 3

Cultivating intelligence: data for shaping modern agriculture

A critical conversation about the future of agricultural data and its role in driving productivity and sustainability in Australia. To set the scene, a conversation highlighting the ongoing efforts to modernise data collection and dissemination, ensuring our statistics keep pace with the evolving needs of the agricultural sector. Following this, an engaging panel discussion will delve into how data is shaping the necessary changes for increased productivity and sustainability.

Chair and panel moderator

Adam Fennessy PSM

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

In conversation with

Brenton Goldsworthy

Deputy Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Panel

Katie McRobert

Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute

Sam Brown

CEO, Agricultural Innovation Australia

Kyaw Kyaw Soe Hlaing

General Manager ICT and Digitalisation, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

3.00 pm – 3.45 pm

Afternoon tea and networking

3.45 pm – 5.00 pm

Session 4

Fields of influence: agricultural trade, global giants and protectionism

An exploration of the intricate web of factors shaping the future of agricultural trade and its far-reaching impacts on the global economy. A keynote and a scene-setting presentation will set the stage for a panel discussion. We will hear perspectives on critical issues such as future trading environment, impacts of geopolitics, rising protectionism, securing critical inputs and climate challenges.

Chair and panel moderator

Tina Hutchison

Deputy Secretary, Trade and Regulation Group, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Keynote

Vangelis Vitalis

Deputy Secretary Trade and Economic, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Scene-setting

James Fell

Trade and Global Change, ABARES

Panel

Dr Pru Gordon

Executive Director, Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment

Fiona Simson

Vice President, Oceania, World Farmers' Organisation

Tim Ryan

Interim CEO, Australian Meat Industry Council

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Welcome Sundowners and networking Celebrating 80 years of ABARES





Day 2 — Wednesday 5 March 2025

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9.00 am – 10.15 am

Session 5

Sowing seeds of investment: attracting capital to agriculture

An exploration of the financial landscape of agriculture and the innovative pathways to attract capital to help secure a prosperous future for this vital sector.

Chair

John Howard

CEO, Regional Investment Corporation

Scene-setting

Dale Ashton

Farm Data and Analysis, ABARES

Trends in farm debt and investment in farming

Panel

Charley Cramer

National Head of Agribusiness, AgFin Australia

Dr Nicola Thomas

Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences,
Charles Sturt University

Jesse Reader

Head of Investment, Growth and Commercial,
Hort Innovation

David Bryant

Managing Director, Rural Funds Management Ltd

9.00 am – 10.15 am

Session 6

Harvesting harmony: balancing social license, sustainability and productivity for long-term success

A scene-setting presentation will highlight the significance of community trust in rural industries and how to measure trust and foster positive relationships. A diverse panel of speakers, each from industries facing unique social license challenges, will share their perspectives and strategies to address issues while ensuring productivity and sustainability.

Chair

Caitlin Crowley

Cussons Media

Scene-setting

Courtney Bailey

Agriculture Sector Lead, Voconiq

Community trust in rural industries – how do you determine and measure community trust?

Panel

Veronica Papacosta

CEO, Seafood Industry Australia

John Lawson

Carbon Projects Manager, Midway Limited

Dr Sarah Bolton

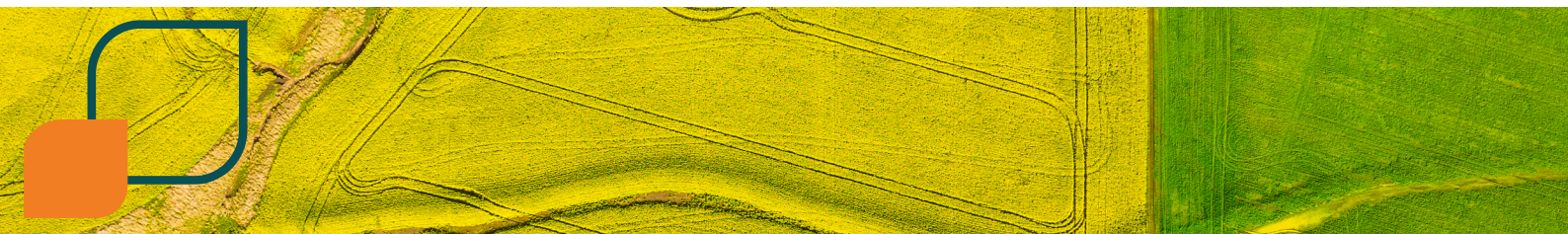
Research Fellow, Animal Welfare Program, University
of British Columbia

Charles Burke

Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner

10.15 am – 10.45 am

Morning tea and networking





Day 2 — Wednesday 5 March 2025

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10.45 am – 12.00 pm

Session 7

Resilient landscapes: tackling pests and weeds for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity

Explore one of the most pressing challenges in agriculture and environmental management – controlling pests and weeds while promoting sustainable practices and preserving biodiversity.

Chair

Laurissa Smith

ABC Rural

Scene-setting

Dr Tony Arthur

Chief Biosecurity Scientist, ABARES
Insights into Australia's established pest and weed problems

Panel

Dr Ryan Wilson

Acting Assistant Secretary, Methods Branch,
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the
Environment and Water

Nerida Bradley

Chief Impact Officer, GreenCollar

Justin Crosby

Director of Government and Strategic Relations,
CropLife Australia

Dr Ken Young

Senior Manager, Biosecurity and Regulation,
Grains Research and Development Corporation

10.45 am – 12.00 pm

Session 8

Farming talent: ensuring a sustainable agriculture workforce

Addresses one of the most critical components of the agricultural sector – building and sustaining a skilled, capable workforce that can meet the demands of the future.

Chair

Caitlin Crowley

Cussons Media

Scene-setting

David Turvey

Executive Director, Jobs and Skills Australia
Food Supply Chain Capacity Study

Panel

Jennifer Galloway

Acting General Manager, Workforce Communications
and Adoption, AgriFutures Australia

Mick Fuller

National People Lead, Dairy Australia

Professor Ruth Nettle

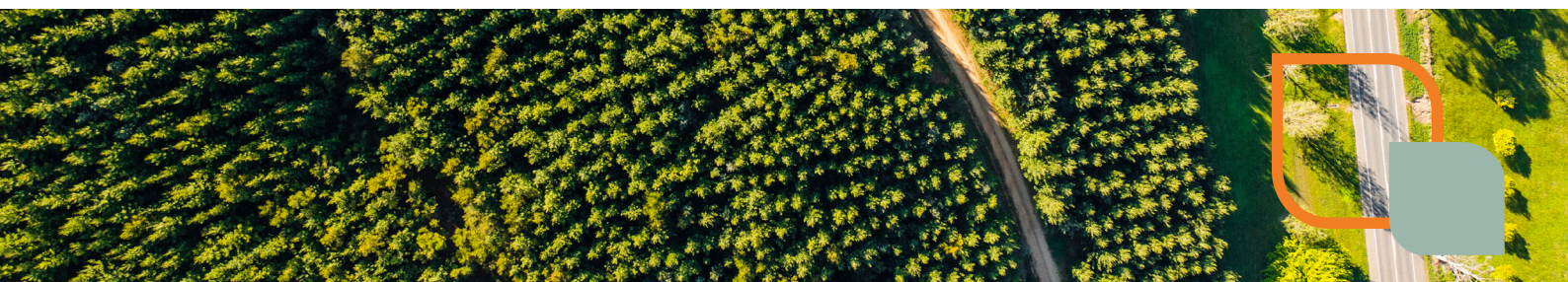
School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences,
University of Melbourne

Richard Shannon

Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation
Horticulture Council

12.00 pm – 1.00 pm

Lunch and networking





Day 2 — Wednesday 5 March 2025

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1.00 pm – 2.15 pm

Session 9

‘Walking together’ for Indigenous commercial outcomes

Explore and celebrate the significant contributions of First Nations people in agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their vital role in creating sustainable commercial markets for cultural products and enterprise while managing and preserving their lands and resources.

Chair

Russell Barnett

Partner, Australian Venture Consultants

Scene-setting

Rohan Jacobsen

Forests and Land Sciences, ABARES
Insights into Indigenous Land and Forest Estate

Panel

Professor Emma Lee

Professorial Research Fellow, Federation University

Angela Huston

CEO, Bushtukka and Botanicals
Indigenous Enterprise Cooperative

Dr Jen Mason

Postdoctorate Research Fellow, School of Culture
History and Language, Gender Media and Cultural
Studies, Australian National University

1.00 pm – 2.15 pm

Session 10

Securing the essentials: fuels, fertilisers and farm chemicals

A discussion of the critical components that are fundamental to agricultural productivity and sustainability. Ensuring the security and availability of these essential inputs is vital for the success and resilience of our farming communities. Our panellists will explore the challenges and opportunities facing these input sectors and how we can work towards securing them for the long term.

Chair

Kate Banville

Journalist

Scene-setting

Andrew Henderson

Principal, Agsecure
Food security preparedness

Panel

Scott Bowman

President, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

Scott Hansen

CEO, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary
Medicines Authority

David Jochinke

President, National Farmers' Federation

2.15 pm – 2.25 pm

10 minute break





Day 2 — Wednesday 5 March 2025

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2.25 pm – 3.40 pm

Session 11

Eyes in the sky: leveraging satellite data for sustainable agriculture and climate resilience

In a world where climate change is increasingly impacting our food systems, this exploration of satellite earth observation for agriculture and climate resilience will showcase the latest advancements in this field, including the innovative collaboration between UK and Australian earth observation scientists.

Chair

Laurissa Smith

ABC Rural

Scene-setting

Dr Hugh Mortimer

Global Research Innovation Partnership Program Lead, UK Science and Technology Facilities Council
Satellite Earth observation for agriculture and climate (UK-Aus collaborative program)

Panel

Professor Richard Lucas

Head of Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics Research Group, Aberystwyth University, UK

Professor Jadu Dash

Professor of Remote Sensing, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Southampton, UK

Professor Owen Atkin

Professor of Plant Science, Australian National University and Director Agrifood Innovation Institute, Australia

Dr Phil Tickle

Managing Director, Cibo Labs, Australia

2.25 pm – 3.40 pm

Session 12

Sustainable productivity and net zero

Exploring the journey around sustainable productivity in agriculture and reaching net zero emissions, we discuss strategies to balance productivity with environmental stewardship for a prosperous future for agricultural communities and our planet.

Chair

Kate Banville

Journalist

Scene-setting

Dr Will Chancellor

Farm Performance, ABARES
The evolution of farm productivity measurement

Panel

Richard Heath

CEO, Zero Net Emissions Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre

Angela Williamson

Director, Blue Policy & Planning, Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre

Su McCluskey

Special Representative for Australian Agriculture

Chris Stevens

Director, Global Agribusiness, Kellanova

3.40 pm – 4.30 pm

Conference close with afternoon tea