

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE 2017



International Convention Centre Sydney – 9 & 10 November 2017

The Australian Farm Institute's Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th of November 2017.

The 2017 Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference will be an important networking opportunity for innovative agricultural producers, supply chain leaders, agribusiness, policy-makers and lead researchers. Over 150 conference attendees will be hosted by the Institute at the new International Convention Centre Sydney which is surrounded by the iconic Darling Harbour.

This year's roundtable conference will bring together the key minds of Australian agriculture and agribusiness to discuss 'Partnering for Success' in significant agricultural and regional issues.

The conference will commence with the Australian Agriculture Gala Dinner on Thursday evening, with a keynote speech from Ali Capper, Chair of the UK National Farmers Union Horticulture and Potatoes Board.

Breakfast speaker Bob Young, Chief Economist and Deputy Executive Director of Public Policy at American Farm Bureau Federation, will discuss Trump's impact on US agriculture and trade.

Sessions for the 2017 conference include:

- Decentralisation
- Energy
- The Future Agricultural Workforce
- Corporate Investment in Agriculture

Session 1: Decentralisation

Australia is one of the world's most urbanised nations, and despite a multitude of different schemes and initiatives developed over the past century, there seems little prospect of increasing population growth in regional areas. However, the rapidly emerging digital era, in combination with improvements in transport and telecommunications should enhance regional growth

prospects. This session will involve contributions from a range of different perspectives about the partnerships that will be required to make regional population growth a reality.

Session 2: Energy

Large increases in electricity and gas prices, coupled with technological change has led to an increase in the economic potential for farm businesses to be significant generators of energy. To capture the full benefit of that potential, partnerships between energy infrastructure providers, large energy companies and farm businesses need to be formed. Current uncertainty in energy policy is a barrier to the development of those partnerships and this session will hear from a range of businesses in how they are dealing with this issue.

Session 3: The Future Agricultural Workforce

There are many indicators pointing towards a significant shift in the capabilities that will be required in the future agricultural workforce. These include the digitisation of agriculture, changes in farm business structures and demographic shifts in both farm and non-farm populations. This session will explore whether the partnerships that exist between the farming community and education providers and trainers, and the workforce more generally are sufficient to ensure that agriculture attracts and retains the people it needs to grow and prosper.

Session 4: Corporate Investment in Agriculture

Too often, discussion of corporate investment in Australian agriculture has focused on the investors rather than the people and businesses benefiting from investment. Successful corporate investment models are highly dependent on effective partnerships with farm managers, lessees and consultants. A range of partnership models will be presented in this session that are potentially redefining how farming businesses are developed.

Partnership opportunities are available