

PROGRAM 2017

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

International Convention Centre Sydney – 9 & 10 November 2017

Australian Agriculture Gala Dinner

Thursday, 9 November

- 6:00 pm Registration
- 6:30 pm Pre-dinner drinks and canapés
- 7:00 pm Gala Dinner
- 8:00 pm **Gala Dinner Speaker: Ali Capper**
Chair, UK National Farmers Union Horticulture and Potatoes Board
- 8:30 pm Question time
- 10.00 pm End of Gala Dinner

Roundtable Conference

Friday, 10 November

- 7:00 am Registration
- 7:15 am Breakfast
- 7:30 am **Breakfast Speaker: Bob Young**
Chief Economist and Deputy Director Public Policy Department,
American Farm Bureau Federation
- 7:50 am Question time

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.

- 8:50 am **Introduction: Mick Keogh**, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute
- 9:00 am **Jack Archer**, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Australia Institute
- 9:20 am **John Harvey**, Managing Director, AgriFutures Australia
- 9:40 am **Scott Hansen**, Director General, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- 10:00 am Question time
- 10:30 am Morning tea and networking

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Session 2: 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.

10:55 am **Dione Howard**, AWI Young Farming Champion, Art4Agriculture

11:00 am **Kelly Manton-Pearce**, Chair, Grower Group Alliance

11:15 am **Pip Job**, Senior Project Officer Business & Social Resilience Programs, NSW DPI

11:30 am **Andrew Skinner**, Manager Solution Design and Information Architecture, MLA

11:45 am **Mick Hay**, Managing Director, Rimfire Resources

12:00 noon Question time

12:30 pm Lunch and networking

Session 3: 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.

1:15 pm **Matt Brand**, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Farmers' Association

1:30 pm **Gavin McMahon**, Chief Executive Officer, Central Irrigators' Trust

1:45 pm **David Mailler**, Farmer and Director, Meralli Projects

2:00 pm Question time

2:30 pm Afternoon tea and networking

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.

2:55 pm **Introduction: Jim Castles**, Director of Sales – Australasia, Geosys

3:00 pm **Rob Bradley**, Farmer and Director, Nuffield Australia

3:15 pm **Andrew Beattie**, Director, ProAdvice

3:30 pm **Kim Morison**, Managing Director, Blue Sky Alternative Investments

3:45 pm Question time

4:15 pm **Closing panel with Ali Capper, Bob Young and Matt Brand**

5:00 pm Conference close