

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM 2017

## AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

International Convention Centre Sydney – 9 & 10 November 2017

### Conference Gala Dinner

Thursday, 9 November

6:00 pm Registration

6:30 pm Pre-dinner drinks and canapés

8:00 pm **Dinner Speaker: Ali Capper**

In Partnership at Stocks Farm, Suckley, Worcestershire UK with her husband Richard and his father Mark, the Cappers specialise in growing hops and apples. They farm dessert and cider apples and hops. [www.stocksfarm.net](http://www.stocksfarm.net)  
Ali's former career was in advertising and marketing. Today, in addition to numerous roles at the farm, her work includes membership of the Boards of Wye Fruit, the British Hop Association, the Hop Industry Committee, the Norton Cider Growers Association and as Chairman of the UK's NFU's National Horticulture & Potatoes Board and Wye Hops. Ali is a Nuffield Scholar, a Trustee of FACE and the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust.

10.00 pm End of Gala Dinner

### Roundtable Conference

Friday, 10 November

7:00 am Registrations

7:20 am Breakfast

7:30 am **Breakfast Speaker: Bob Young**

Dr Bob Young joined the American Farm Bureau Federation in 2003 as the chief economist, coordinating the activities of the Economic Analysis Team. The team provides support of the policy implementation effort and helps to maintain the longer-term view of factors that are driving the overall farm sector. Bob has also served as the chief economist of the US Senate Committee on Agriculture. There he was active in the development of the 1990 Farm Bill, as well as various budget and disaster assistance bills. He also served as an associate professor in agricultural economics at the University of Missouri.

### 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**, CEO, 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 pm Art4Agriculture

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

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

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

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

12:00 pm 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 am **Matt Brand**, CEO, NSW Farmers' Association

1:30 am **Gavin McMahon**, CEO, Central Irrigators' Trust

1:45 am **David Mailler**, Farmer and developer of on-farm power stations

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.

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**

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