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**Bendigo Regional Outlook conference**

Wednesday, 5 October 2022

Venue: All Seasons Hotel, 171-183 McIvor Highway, Bendigo

To register go to <https://agriculture.eventsair.com/2022-3-bendigo-roc/delegates>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8.30 AM Registration

**SESSION 1:** **Agriculture’s contribution to Australia’s prosperity**

CHAIR Jane McNaughton, ABC Rural

9.00 AM Welcome to Country

9.10 AM *Opening address*

Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

(video message)

9.15 AM Lisa Chesters MP

Federal member for Bendigo

Welcome comments

9.25 AM Jared Greenville

ABARES

*Big picture issues affecting farmers in central Victoria*

9.40 AM Mark Bennett

ANZ Bank

*Market insights and opportunities for central Victorian farmers*

9.55 AM Michaela Alexander

Bureau of Meteorology

*$100b in a changing climate*

10.10 AM Questions and discussion

10.30 AM Morning tea

**SESSION 2: Driving value in agriculture and food**

CHAIR Jennifer Alexander, Agriculture Victoria

11.00 AM      Leonie Burrows

RDA Loddon Mallee

*Topic tbc*

11.15 AM John Walsh

ABARES

*Water market outlook for the southern Murray-Darling Basin*

11.30 AM Quinton Hildebrand

Ridley Foods

*Solving food production challenges through smart animal nutrition*

11.45 AM Felicity Hitchcock

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

*Helping farmers get to market*

12.00 PM Neil Mulcahy

Farmers2Founders

*Overcoming barriers and challenges to build agrifood business sustainability*

12.15 PM Questions and panel discussion

12.30 PM Lunch

**SESSION 3:** **Adopting and adapting for sustainable growth**

1.30 PM Our experienced panel members will share their stories of innovation and adaptation driving sustainability and business success. Join in and ask questions.

Moderator: Kate Burke, Think Agri

SpeakerABARES sets the scene - Andrew Cameron, on the *Commodity outlook and issues*

Panellists:

Andrew Cameron, ABARES

Belinda and Jason Hagan, McIvor Farm Foods, Tooborac

Andrew Murphy, dairy farmer, Kyabram

Felicity Harrop, Soil Science Australia

3.00 PM      Close and afternoon tea/networking