



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



ABARES Outlook 2026 Program

3–4 March 2026
Hotel Realm Canberra | Online





Welcome to Outlook 2026

Hello and welcome to ABARES Outlook 2026 — a forum that continues to bring together leading thinkers, practitioners and decision makers to explore the issues shaping the future of Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

This year's theme, 'Reset. Rethink. Regrow: Cultivating tomorrow's opportunities', invites us to pause, reassess and chart a renewed path for our sector. It reflects the reality that we are operating in a world of increased climate variability and adaptation pressures, turbulent global markets, growing land-use competition, and shifting expectations from consumers and communities. Against this backdrop, the capacity to reset our assumptions, rethink our approaches and regrow with resilience and innovation has never been more important.

Over the next two days, Outlook 2026 will offer a dynamic mix of economic insights, policy discussion, forward-looking analysis and practical perspectives from across the agricultural, fisheries and forestry landscape. The program is designed to help us examine where we are today, consider where we need to go next, and explore how evidence can guide us there. Throughout the sessions, speakers and panellists will encourage us to broaden our perspectives and identify new opportunities for sustainable growth.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in the discussions, build new connections and share your experiences. Outlook has always been a place where ideas spark collaboration, and this year's theme sets the stage for conversations that look beyond the immediate horizon to the long-term vitality of our industries and communities.

Thank you for being part of Outlook 2026. I hope you enjoy the program and leave inspired, informed and ready to cultivate tomorrow's opportunities together.



Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director
ABARES

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2.30 pm	Session 10 – Growing resilience: Agriculture and the future of food security in Australia
3.45 pm	Reflections & closing
4.00 pm	End of conference

Digital conference experience

We're excited to have Andrew Whitelaw and Matt Dalglish of Episode3 as our online hosts. Throughout the breaks, they'll provide live commentary, facilitated discussion, and interviews with select panellists, broadcasting from the back corner of the ballroom.

All of their online content will also be available on demand after the conference, so be sure to check it out to catch any discussions you may have missed!



Matt Dalglish



Andrew Whitelaw

Registration Desk

The registration desk is located at the top of the stairs on the conference level (refer to map on page 7). Registration badges will be available for collection on Monday 2 March 2026 from 4.00pm.

Registration desk opening times:

Monday 2 March: 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Tuesday 3 March: 8.00 am – 6.00 pm

Wednesday 4 March: 8.00 am – 4.00 pm

Contact us on: outlooktickets@confco.com.au

Our friendly staff will also be available throughout the conference to assist with:

- General directions
- Login details for the conference app/virtual event portal
- Purchasing additional tickets to the Welcome Sundowners event

If you wish to store luggage, please visit the Hotel Realm concierge desk on the ground level.

Access Wi-Fi

All delegates will have access to complimentary Wi-Fi at Hotel Realm.

Connect your Wi-Fi to: **DomaConference**

Password: **@DomaHotels**

Don't miss anything – access the Conference App and Virtual Event Portal!

As part of your registration, you'll have access to the conference app and virtual event portal.

To download the conference app, scan the QR codes below to suit your device.



App Store

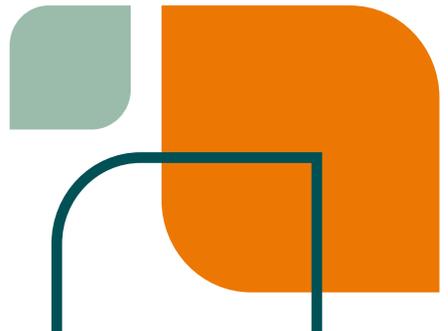


Google Play

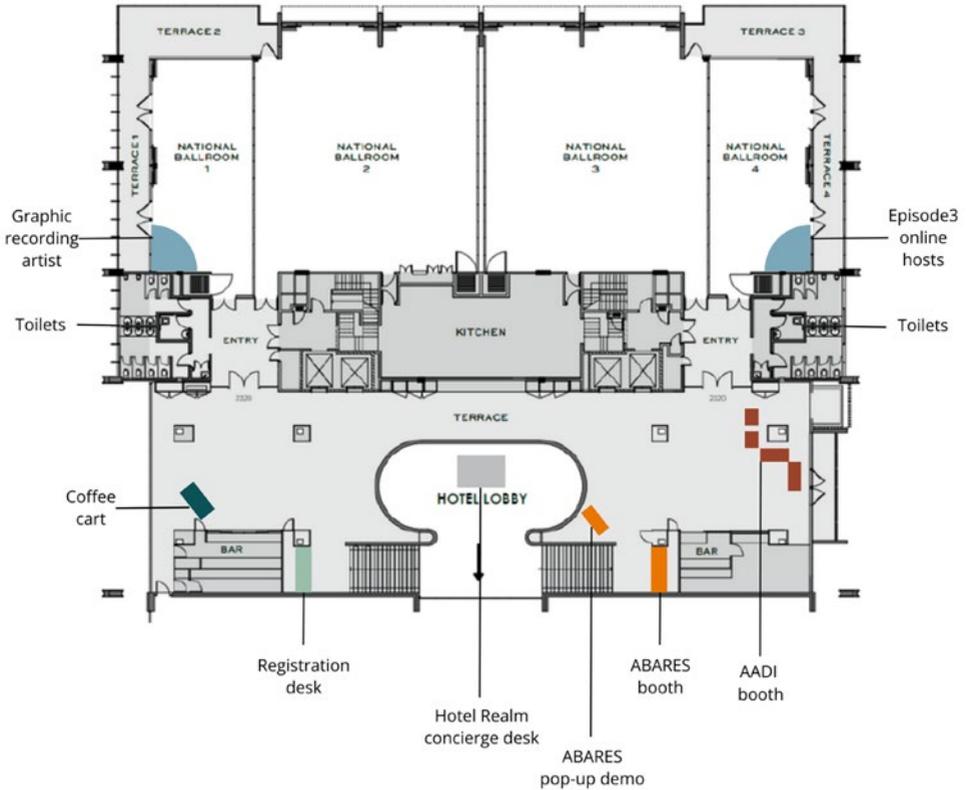
Once you have logged onto the conference app you will be able to access the conference program, create your own personal agenda, take notes, contribute to the live Q&A and see event updates/alerts.

In the virtual event portal, you'll be able to watch sessions, ask questions in real time and catch up on any sessions you've missed.

A week ago, you should have received your "Outlook 2026 - Final Details Email" which contains your conference app login details and a personal auto-login link to the online portal. If you didn't, please check your junk and/or spam folders or see our staff at the Registration Desk.

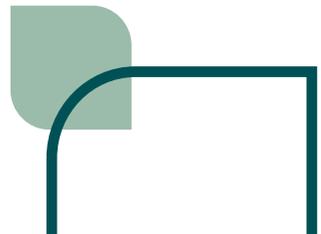


Venue Map – Hotel Realm Canberra



Tell us what you think!

At the conclusion of the conference, we encourage you to take our short survey to tell us what you thought about ABARES Outlook 2026. Your feedback will help us understand your experience and improve the event for years to come.



Visit the ABARES Booth

From morning tea on Day 1, visit the ABARES booth – located at the top of the stairs opposite the registration desk – to gain deeper insights into our work and how our research supports evidence-based decision-making.

At the booth, you can:

- **Chat with ABARES staff.** Our team will be available to answer questions about our research and publications.
- **Browse the latest research products**, including the 2026 March quarter Agricultural Commodities and Australian Crop reports.

For more information about ABARES' history, mission, and upcoming priorities, visit: agriculture.gov.au/abares

Explore a pop-up dashboard demo during lunchtime:

Day 1: Farm Data Dashboard demo 12.30 pm – 1.15 pm

Day 2: Trade Dashboard demo 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm



Visit the AADI Booth

Discover the Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators (AADI) tool: a national, data-driven resource that links weather and agricultural data with economic models to monitor and forecast the impact of drought on agricultural outcomes – such as crop yields, pasture growth, and farm business profits.

Visit the AADI booth to explore how these indicators support timely decision-making for farmers, industry and government.

ABARES and CSIRO staff will demonstrate the tool's features and answer questions about its practical applications, and you can also try it out for yourself.

Welcome Sundowners

Tuesday 3 March 2026, 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

*Proudly sponsored by the Rural Research
and Development Corporations (RDCs)*

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Day 1 — Tuesday 3 March 2026

8.45 am – 9.05 am

Conference opening and Welcome to Country



MC

Claire Taylor

2023 Nuffield Scholar and
agriculture advocate



Welcome to Country

Paul House

9.05 am – 9.20 am

Ministerial Address



Opening Address

The Hon Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

9.20 am – 9.40 am

ABARES Address



Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director – ABARES

9.40 am – 10.00 am

Keynote Address



Dr Máximo Torero

Chief Economist –
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Organization
(FAO)

10.00 am – 10.30 am

Session 1

Global horizons: An outlook for agriculture in Australia and beyond

This fireside chat will explore the evolving landscape of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. As global demand for food grows and environmental challenges intensify, the future of farming faces both complexities and newfound opportunities.



Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director – ABARES



Dr Máximo Torero

Chief Economist –
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Organization
(FAO)

10.30 am – 11.00 am

Morning tea

Day 1 — Tuesday 3 March 2026

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Session 2

Commodities spotlight: Insights and analysis

Hear the latest insights and analysis from expert ABARES commodity and farm data analysts as they discuss the medium-term economic outlook for key agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector commodities and farm incomes.

Facilitator



Dr Jared Greenville
Executive Director – ABARES

Presenter



Victoria Anderson
Secretary – DAFF

Panellists



Amelia Brown
Grains and Oilseeds – ABARES



Harrison Tuynman
Fisheries – ABARES



Tom Killalea
Horticulture and Wine –
ABARES



Fred Litchfield
Livestock – ABARES



Sean Bellew
Australian Farm Performance
– ABARES



Vincent Hemmings-Kavanagh
Forestry – ABARES

ABARES Pop-up demo booth – Farm data dashboard

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Lunch

Day 1 — Tuesday 3 March 2026

1.30 pm – 2.45 pm

Session 3

From soil to shore: Exploring land and sea use change in modern agriculture

The changing dynamics of land and sea use are being driven by the intersecting pressures of climate change, market competition and growing public expectations. This session will explore how terrestrial and coastal ecosystems are impacted and managed, while balancing productivity, sustainability and community interests.

Facilitator



Ben Fargher
Group Sustainability Lead
(APAC) – Cargill

Presenter and panellist



David Galeano
Assistant Secretary,
Natural Resources Branch –
ABARES

Panellists



Tony Mahar
Australian Energy
Infrastructure Commissioner



Sean Sloan
Managing Director –
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation



Diana Hallam
Chief Executive Officer –
Australian Forest Products
Association

2.45 pm – 3.15 pm

Afternoon tea

Cultivating trust: Navigating agriculture's social licence – Fireside chat

As Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations increasingly shape business practices and public expectations, the agricultural sector faces new pressures and opportunities to demonstrate responsibility, transparency and sustainability. This discussion will dive into Australian agriculture's social licence, a crucial factor for staying influential in policy decisions and driving bold industry growth.

Facilitator



Claire Taylor
2023 Nuffield Scholar
and agriculture advocate

Guests



Katie McRobert
Executive Director –
Australian Farm Institute



Liz Ritchie
Chief Executive Officer –
Regional Australia Institute



Fewer players, higher stakes: Who owns the future of food? – Fireside chat

Consolidation across the food system – from inputs and farms to supermarkets and supply chains – can reshape markets, influence prices and alter relationships between farmers, retailers and consumers. Transparent market information can play a role supporting competition by ensuring informed decisions by farmers and consumers alike. This discussion will consider what will impact the future of competition in the sector and what it means for the future of Australian agriculture.

Facilitator

Guests



Su McCluskey
Interim Chief Executive –
National Farmers Federation



Mick Keogh
Deputy Chair – Australian
Consumer & Competition
Commission



Dr Catherine de Fontenay
Commissioner –
Productivity Commission

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

**Welcome Sundowners
and networking**

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the Rural Research and
Development Corporations
(RDCs)*

ruralR&D
CORPORATIONS

Tickets: A single pass to the Welcome Sundowners event is included in your conference pass. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$110 per person from the Registration Desk.

Day 2 — Wednesday 4 March 2026

8.45 am – 8.50 am

Welcome



MC

Claire Taylor

2023 Nuffield Scholar and agriculture advocate

8.50 am – 9.00 am

Opening address



Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm

Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

9.00 am – 10.15 am

Session 6

Future farms: Unlocking productivity through innovation

Technology and innovative practices are reshaping Australian agriculture. Automation, precision farming, data analytic tools and other on-farm innovations are required to drive productivity, sustainability and competitiveness. This panel will discuss the opportunities for farmers and industry to embrace innovation and build the future of farming in Australia.

Facilitator



Victoria Taylor

Chair – Agrifood Innovation Institute

Presenter



Andrea Willis

Assistant Secretary, Farm Performance and Information Branch – ABARES

Panellists



Eduardo Barbosa

Research and Development Manager – Hort Innovation



Will Taing

Director – Beanstalk AgTech



Sam Brown

Chief Executive Officer – Agricultural Innovation Australia



Sarah Nolet

Co-Founder and Managing Partner – Tenacious Ventures

10.15 am – 10.45 am

Morning tea

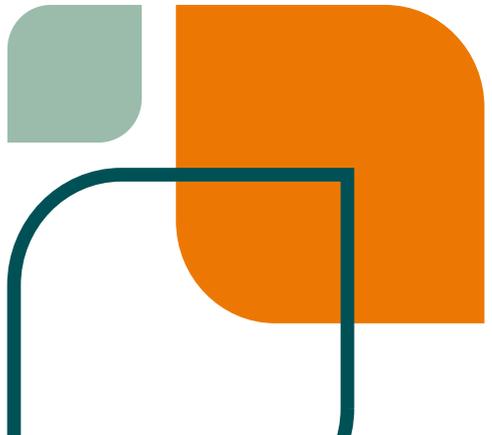
Understanding climate risk: A foundation for national resilience

Australia's history of resilience and innovation positions it well to meet the challenges of a changing climate. By understanding climate risks and their impacts, we can take informed, proactive steps to adapt. Explore how turning uncertainty into opportunity can help shape a more resilient future.

Presenter



Vicki Manson
Group Executive –
Australian Climate Service



Data-driven farming: Meeting climate and sustainability challenges together

Data and technology are transforming agriculture to better address climate change and sustainability goals. This panel will discuss the critical data needs for monitoring climate risks, improving resource management and supporting resilient farming practices. It will also highlight the opportunities and challenges in harnessing data-driven solutions to foster sustainable agriculture, enhance productivity and ensure environmental stewardship in a rapidly changing climate.

Facilitator



Leo Soames

Senior Economist, Farm
Performance – ABARES

Panellists



Richard Heath

Chief Executive Officer – Zero
Net Emissions Agriculture CRC



Jacqui Vitas

General Manager,
Methodology and Data
Science Division – Australian
Bureau of Statistics



Verity Morgan-Schmidt

Acting Chief Executive Officer
– Farmers for Climate Action



Robert Mackenzie

Director – Macka's Angus Beef

ABARES Pop-up demo booth – Trade dashboard

Debate: Guarding our patch or growing without borders? The future of Australian agriculture

How do we navigate the balance between protecting and nurturing Australia's emerging and domestic agricultural industries – and – embracing free and open markets to maximise export opportunities? Our panellists will provide their raw, honest views on how best to secure a sustainable and prosperous future for Australian agriculture in a globalised economy.

Facilitator



James Fell

Program Lead, Trade and Global Change – ABARES

Guests



Margo Andrae

Chief Executive Officer – Australian Pork Limited



Dr Pru Gordon

Executive Director – Australian Centre for Trade and Investment



Brett Hosking

President – Victorian Farmers Federation



George Mina

Deputy Secretary, Trade and Investment Group – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Day 2 — Wednesday 4 March 2026

2.30 pm – 3.45 pm

Session 10

Growing resilience: Agriculture and the future of food security in Australia

Resilience is critical to overcome and embrace the challenges and opportunities facing Australian agriculture. Ensuring food security amid climate change, navigating shifting markets, and keeping up with evolving consumer demands are just some of the key issues. Building resilient farming systems that support sustainable production, protect natural resources, and secure a stable food supply for future generations will be critical to our success.

Facilitator

Presenter



Jo Stanion

First Assistant Secretary,
Agricultural Policy Division –
DAFF



Kurt Hockey

Assistant Secretary,
Agricultural Forecasting and
Trade Branch – ABARES

Panellists



Hamish McIntyre

President – National Farmers
Federation



Claire McClelland

National Food Council
Member



Brianna Casey

Managing Director –
AgriFutures



Nick Rose

Executive Director – Sustain:
The Australian Food Network

3.45 pm – 4.00 pm

Reflections & closing



MC

Claire Taylor

2023 Nuffield Scholar and
agriculture advocate



Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director – ABARES

4.00 pm

Conference close



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agriculture.gov.au/abares