



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Outlook 2025 conference

Insights for Action: Fostering growth in a changing world

4-5 March 2025 | Hotel Realm Canberra | Online



DAY 1 – TUESDAY 4 MARCH

9.00 am – 9.25 am

Conference Opening – MC Kate Banville

Welcome to Country

Minister's opening address

9.25 am – 10.40 am

Session 1: Driving agriculture's productivity and sustainable success

Agriculture today faces unprecedented challenges. Climate change, geopolitical turmoil and shifting market dynamics demand innovative solutions and adaptive strategies. Understanding the economic trends and productivity hurdles is essential for developing resilient and sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors and their respective supply chains.

KEYNOTES:

Dr Jared Greenville

Executive Director, ABARES

Economic Outlook for Australian agriculture

Professor Alex Robson

Deputy Chair, Productivity Commission

Australia's productivity challenge

Ben van Delden

Climate and Agrifood Partner, Deloitte

Transforming Australia into a food superpower

10.40 am – 11.15 am Morning tea break and networking

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

Session 2: Commodities spotlight: navigating future trends and opportunities

A panel of ABARES commodity and farm data analysts will discuss the medium-term economic outlook for key agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector commodities and farm incomes. The anticipated economic conditions and their implications for key commodities are vital to understanding the magnitude of the opportunity for the sector.

Dr Jared Greenville – Panel moderator

Emily Dahl – Grains and oilseeds

Alistair Read – Livestock commodities: Meat, wool and dairy

Fred Litchfield – Horticulture and wine

Patrick Mulcahey – Australian farm financial performance

Harrison Tuynman – Fisheries

Stephanie Black – Forestry

12.30 pm – 1.45 pm Lunch break

1.45 pm – 3.00 pm

Session 3: Cultivating intelligence: data for shaping modern agriculture

A critical conversation about the future of agricultural data and its role in driving productivity and sustainability in Australia. To set the scene, a conversation highlighting the ongoing efforts to modernise data collection and dissemination, ensuring our statistics keep pace with the evolving needs of the agricultural sector. Following this, an engaging panel discussion will delve into how data is shaping the necessary changes for increased productivity and sustainability.

Chair and panel moderator:

Matt Lowe

Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group

IN CONVERSATION WITH:

Brenton Goldsworthy

Deputy Australian Statistician

PANEL:

Katie McRobert

Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute

Sam Brown

CEO, Agricultural Innovation Australia

Kyaw Kyaw Soe Hliang

General Manager ICT and Digitalisation, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

3.00 pm – 3.45 pm Afternoon tea break and networking

3.45 pm – 5.00 pm

Session 4: Fields of influence: agricultural trade, global giants and protectionism

An exploration of the intricate web of factors shaping the future of agricultural trade and its far-reaching impacts on the global economy. A keynote and a scene-setting presentation will set the stage for a panel discussion. We will hear perspectives on critical issues such as future trading environment, impacts of geopolitics, rising protectionism, securing critical inputs and climate challenges.

Chair and panel moderator:

Tina Hutchison

Deputy Secretary, Trade and Regulation Group, DAFF

KEYNOTE:

Vangelis Vitalis

Deputy Secretary, Trade and Economics, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

SCENE SETTING:

James Fell

Program Lead, Trade and Global Change, ABARES

PANEL:

Dr Pru Gordon

CEO, Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment

Fiona Simpson

Vice President – Oceania, World Farmers' Organisation

Tim Ryan

Interim CEO, Australian Meat Industry Council

**5.00pm to 7.00pm Welcome Sundowners and networking
Celebrating 80 years of ABARES**

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Concurrent stream 1

Concurrent stream 2

<p>9.00 am – 10.15 am</p> <p>Session 5: Sowing seeds of investment: attracting capital to agriculture</p> <p><i>An exploration of the financial landscape of agriculture and the innovative pathways to attract capital to help secure a prosperous future for this vital sector.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Dale Ashton Farm Data and Analysis, ABARES <i>Trends in farm debt and investment in farming</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Charley Cramer National Head of Agribusiness, AgFin Australia</p> <p>Dr Nicola Thomas Faculty of Business, Charles Sturt University</p> <p>Jesse Reader Head of Investment, Growth and Commercial, Hort Innovation</p> <p>David Bryant Managing Director, Rural Funds Management Ltd</p>	<p>9.00am – 10.15am</p> <p>Session 6: Harvesting harmony: balancing social license, sustainability and productivity for long-term success</p> <p><i>A scene-setting presentation will highlight the significance of community trust in rural industries and how to measure trust and foster positive relationships. A diverse panel of speakers, each from industries facing unique social license challenges, will share their perspectives and strategies to address issues while ensuring productivity and sustainability.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Courtney Bailey Agriculture Sector Lead, Voconiq <i>Community trust in rural industries – how do you determine and measure community trust?</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Veronica Papacosta CEO, Seafood Industry Australia</p> <p>John Lawson Manager Carbon Projects, Midway Limited</p> <p>Dr Sarah Bolton Dairy Beef and Animal Welfare Manager, Greenham</p> <p>Charles Burke Queensland Interim Food Farmers' Commissioner</p>
<p>10.15 am – 10.45 am Morning tea break and networking</p>	

<p>10.45 am – 12.00 pm</p> <p>Session 7: Resilient landscapes: tackling pests and weeds for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity</p> <p><i>Explore one of the most pressing challenges in agriculture and environment management – controlling pests and weeds while promoting sustainable practices and preserving biodiversity.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Dr Tony Arthur Chief Biosecurity Scientist, ABARES <i>Insights into Australia’s established pest and weed problems</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Dr Catherine Riordan Director Nature Repair Committee, Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water</p> <p>Nerida Bradley Chief Impact Officer, GreenCollar</p> <p>Justin Crosby Director of Government and Strategic Relations, CropLife Australia</p> <p>Dr Ken Young Senior Manager Biosecurity and Regulation, Grains Research and Development Corporation</p>	<p>10.45 am – 12.00 pm</p> <p>Session 8: Farming talent: ensuring a sustainable agriculture workforce</p> <p><i>Addresses one of the most critical components of the agricultural sector – building and sustaining a skilled, capable workforce that can meet the demands of the future.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>David Turvey Executive Director, Jobs and Skills Australia <i>Food Supply Chain Capacity Study</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Jennifer Galloway Manager, Workforce Communications and Adoption, AgriFutures Australia</p> <p>Mick Fuller National People Lead, Dairy Australia</p> <p>Professor Ruth Nettle School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Richard Shannon Executive Officer, Horticulture Council, National Farmers’ Federation</p>
<p>12.00 pm – 1.00pm Lunch break</p>	

<p>1.00pm – 2.15 pm</p> <p>Session 9: ‘Walking together’ for Indigenous commercial outcomes</p> <p><i>Explore and celebrate the significant contributions of First Nations people in agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their vital role in creating sustainable commercial markets for cultural products and enterprise while managing and preserving their lands and resources.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Rohan Jacobsen Forests and Land Sciences, ABARES <i>Insights into Indigenous Land and Forest Estate</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Professor Emma Lee Tasmanian Aboriginal Seafoods and Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation Tasmania</p> <p>Jocelyn King Chair, First Australians Capital</p> <p><i>Additional panellists to be confirmed</i></p>	<p>1.00pm – 2.15 pm</p> <p>Session 10: Securing the essentials: fuels, fertilisers and farm chemicals</p> <p><i>A discussion of the critical inputs that are fundamental to agricultural production. Ensuring the security and availability of these essential inputs is vital for the success and resilience of our farming communities. Our panellists will explore the challenges and opportunities facing these sectors and how we can work towards securing them for the long term.</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>David Jochinke President, National Farmers’ Federation</p> <p>Scott Bowman President, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers</p> <p>Scott Hansen CEO, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority</p> <p><i>Additional panellist to be confirmed</i></p>
<p>10-minute break</p>	

<p>2.25pm – 3.40 pm</p> <p>Session 11: Eyes in the sky: leveraging satellite data for sustainable agriculture and climate resilience</p> <p><i>In a world where climate change is increasingly impacting our food systems, this exploration of satellite earth observation for agriculture and climate resilience will showcase the latest advancements in this field, including the innovative collaboration between UK and Australian earth observation scientists.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Dr Hugh Mortimer Global Research Innovation Partnership Program Lead, UK Science and Technology Facilities Council <i>Satellite Earth observation for agriculture and climate (UK-Aus collaborative program)</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Professor Richard Lucas Head of Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics Research Group, Aberystwyth University, UK</p> <p>Professor Jadu Dash Professor of Remote Sensing, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Southampton, UK</p> <p>Professor Owen Atkin Professor of Plant Science, Australian National University and Director Agrifood Innovation Institute, Australia</p> <p>Dr Phil Tickle Managing Director, Cibo Labs, Australia</p>	<p>2.25pm – 3.40 pm</p> <p>Session 12: Sustainable productivity and net zero</p> <p><i>Exploring the journey around sustainable productivity in agriculture and reaching net zero emissions, we discuss strategies to balance productivity with environmental stewardship for a prosperous future for agricultural communities and our planet.</i></p> <p>SCENE-SETTING:</p> <p>Will Chancellor Farm Performance, ABARES <i>Measuring productivity</i></p> <p>PANEL:</p> <p>Richard Heath CEO, Zero Net Emissions Agricultural Cooperative Research Centre</p> <p>Angela Williamson Director, Blue Policy and Planning, Blue Economy CRC</p> <p>Su McCluskey Special Representative Australian Agriculture</p> <p><i>Additional panellist to be confirmed</i></p>
<p>3.40 pm – 4.30 pm Conference Close with Afternoon Tea and Networking</p>	