ABARES Regional Outlook conference – Berri, South Australia

The ABARES Regional Outlook conference for South Australia for 2012 will be held in Berri on Wednesday 16 May.

ABARES holds a Regional Outlook conference in each state and the Northern Territory each year, taking its agricultural commodity forecasts and discussions on key issues affecting rural industries to major regional communities.

ABARES Chief Commodity Analyst, Jammie Penm, said that the Berri conference program has been tailored to the Riverland, with ABARES working with Primary Industries and Regions SA in developing the conference program.

“The Regional Outlook conferences are an essential part of our delivery of commodity forecasts and research results direct to rural and regional communities,” Dr Penm said. “The conferences engage regional audiences to discuss the key issues affecting the outlook for Australia’s agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries, natural resources, climate and trade.”

“Each conference delivers thought-provoking information, from local agricultural data and innovative business practices through to the global commodity overview and encourages economic viability, community vitality and environmental sustainability.

“Conference delegates can hear commodity forecasts, discuss industry trends, access information and make new contacts in their community that encourage new approaches to traditional issues.”

The Berri ABARES Regional Outlook conference features a range of local producers, business owners and regional organisations, complemented by ABARES speakers who will speak in four sessions focused on the region.

The Global economy – local impacts session features ABARES Chief Commodities Analyst Jammie Penm discussing National and international issues affecting the region; followed by Rudy Boeff from Rural Bank with A banker’s perspective on rural finances.

The next session, Towards a more productive agriculture, includes ABARES analyst Caroline Gunning-Trant with the Outlook for wine and winegrapes; Sheridan Alm, Yatco Viticulture discussing Irrigation in a changing climate and Ben Haslett
from Woolenook Fruits on *Horticulture, adaptation and opportunity*.

The third session, **Operating in a changing environment**, features: the Bureau of Meteorology's Andrew Watson on *Weather and climate – looking forward, looking back*; Krysteen McElroy, MacKillop Farm Management Group with *Water efficient and weather ready crops, farms and farmers*; and Fiona Crawford from ABARES on the *Commodity outlook and farm performance*.

Celebrating the Australian Year of the Farmer, the closing panel discussion will explore the future of farming in the region and will be chaired by Rob Kerin, Regional Development South Australia. During this discussion, panellists and delegates will cover topics such as new and emerging industries; regional development; accessing information in new ways, e.g. smartphone apps and social media; cooperative, corporate and family farming; skills, graduates, labour, demography and clean green food as our competitive edge.

Panellists include Leon Stasinowsky, District Council of Loxton Waikerie; Mandy Pearce, Ag Excellence Alliance; John Gladigau, "Bunyarra” Alawoona; Helen Thomas, “Craiglee” Manoora; Trent Mader, Primary Industries and Regions SA.


Date: Wednesday 16 May 2012  
Venue: Berri Resort Hotel, Riverview Drive, Berri SA.  
Time: Registration from 8.30am, conference 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Cost: $98pp (inc GST) including conference admission, the current issue of *Agricultural Commodities*, copies of available speakers' papers, lunch and morning and afternoon tea.  
To register contact: ABARES Conferences on 02 6272 2303/3051, mobile 0417 689 567 or email conferences@daff.gov.au.

**MEDIA NOTE: Media registration is complimentary.** For media inquiries contact 02 6272 3232 or email media@daff.gov.au.