

Agriculture and trade in disrupted economies



Australian
Farm Institute

Toowoomba, QLD & ONLINE | 17 June 2021

10:00–10:10 am | **INTRODUCTION/WELCOME:**

Richard Heath – AFI Executive Director

10:10 am–12 MIDDAY | **SESSION 1: OVERVIEW and lived impacts**

KEYNOTE: Philip Lowe – Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia

The Hon Dan Tehan MP – Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

Shari Rogge-Fidler – CEO, US Farm Foundation

Fireside chat with local panellists:

Eimear McDonagh – General Manager Export Marketing & Logistics,
Namoi Cotton Alliance

Peter Wilson – Director, Wilson International Trade

12:00 –1:00 pm | **LUNCH**

1:00–3:00 pm | **SESSION 2: Geopolitical impacts**

The Hon Andrew Robb AO – Former Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism

Brett Hosking – Chair, Grain Growers Ltd

Andrew Cox – General Manager, International Markets, Meat & Livestock Australia

3:00–3:30 pm | **BREAK**

3:30–5:30 pm | **SESSION 3: Thriving in disruption**

Alexandra Gartmann – CEO Rural Bank & Group Executive Partnerships, Marketing and
Corporate Affairs / AFI Board

Associate Professor Ben Lyons – Director (Rural Economies Centre of Excellence), USQ

Mark Harvey-Sutton – Chief Executive Officer, Australian Livestock Exporters Council

5:30–6:00 pm | **BREAK**

6:00–7:00 pm | **DRINKS**

7:00–10 pm | **DELEGATES DINNER**

Dinner presentation: Richard Heath (AFI) in discussion with the Hon Andrew Robb AO



Governor Philip Lowe

Philip Lowe is Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Mr Lowe holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.Comm (Honours) in Economics/Econometrics from the University of New South Wales. He has authored numerous papers, including on the linkages between monetary policy and financial stability. He commenced as Governor on 18 September 2016.

He is Chair of the Reserve Bank Board and Payments System Board, and Chair of the Council of Financial Regulators. He is a member of the Financial Stability Board. Prior to his current role, he held the positions of Deputy Governor, Assistant Governor (Economic) and Assistant Governor (Financial System). He also spent two years at the Bank for International Settlements working on financial stability issues.

Mr Lowe is Chair of the Financial Markets Foundation for Children and a director of The Anika Foundation. He is also Chair of the Committee on the Global Financial System of the Bank for International Settlements.

Mr Lowe is a signatory to The Banking and Finance Oath.



The Hon Dan Tehan MP

The Hon Dan Tehan MP is the Member for Wannon in Victoria. He is Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and was sworn in on 22 December 2020.

Mr Tehan served as Minister for Education from 28 August 2018. Prior to this, he was the Minister for Social Services, and preceding this, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac.

Mr Tehan was elected to Federal Parliament in 2010 and has held positions including as the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Youth Mental Health, and Chair of the Coalition Friends of Tourism.

Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Tehan worked in agriculture in Australia and overseas. He worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where he held various roles, including as a diplomat at the Australian Embassy in Mexico. Mr Tehan also worked at senior levels of the Howard Government, and as the Director of Trade Policy and International Affairs at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Tehan has Masters Degrees in International Relations and Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Shari Rogge-Fidler

Shari is president and CEO of Farm Foundation with over 25 years of global leadership and executive experience. She has a unique perspective, developed through her experience as a fifth-generation farm owner and operator, entrepreneur in the organic branded food industry, founder of an agribusiness consulting firm and leader of a soil health technology firm. Shari also served as CEO for a suite of service companies for 1,000 farms across the US.

She began her career in London in financial services and continued in Europe with the Boston Consulting Group. Shari has served on several corporate boards, including Farm Credit Mid America and Coastal Pet. She currently serves as a trustee for The Nature Conservancy, and advisory boards of the St. Louis Federal Reserve, and Lewis & Clark Agrifood Fund.



The Hon Andrew Robb AO

Until his recent retirement from politics, Andrew Robb was Australia’s Minister for Trade and Investment. In this role Mr Robb negotiated Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Japan and China, as well as the 12 country Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Singapore.

Mr Robb is a strategic and investment advisor to a range of national and international businesses, a Board Member of the Kidman cattle enterprise, Mind Medicine Australia and CLARA. In the 70s Mr Robb worked as an animal health officer and then as agricultural economist. In the 80s he was Executive Director of the Cattle Council of Australia, and later, Executive Director of the National Farmers’ Federation.



Alexandra Gartmann

Alexandra joined Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group in October 2015 as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for Rural Bank, having been a member of the Board since November 2014. From July 2019, Alexandra is also responsible for the Group’s Partnerships, Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Climate Risk.

Before joining the Bank, Alexandra was CEO of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), a charitable foundation based on a partnership between philanthropy, community, government and business supporting the economic prosperity of rural, regional and remote communities across Australia. Prior to this, Ms Gartmann held the position of CEO of the Birchip Cropping Group for 10 years – a not-for-profit agricultural research organisation based in the Mallee Wimmera region.

In addition to her role at the Bank, Alexandra is Chair of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council, a Trustee of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

Alexandra was previously a member of the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership, the Board of the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria and was Chair of the CSIRO Agriculture Advisory Council. She continues to be a champion for rural and regional Australia.



Brett Hosking

Brett Hosking is a fifth-generation farmer running a mixed farming business in Quambatook, Victoria. Brett, his wife Jane and their four daughters grow wheat, barley, canola, lentils and field peas as well as run sheep and cattle. Brett is a grower director, the current Chair of GrainGrowers and has had long-standing involvement across the Australian grains industry. This has included Victorian Farmers’ Federation (VFF), Grains Group President and Vice-President. Brett has a passion for agriculture and for ensuring farmers and the regional communities where they operate are strongly represented and their voices heard.



Andrew Cox

Andrew is the General Manager – International Markets for Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), based in Singapore. He manages a team of 50 staff in 13 locations throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe and USA. In partnership with industry, his responsibilities include offshore promotion of Australian beef, lamb and goat meat, customer relations/ business development and activities to improve our market access.

Prior to moving to Singapore, Andrew lived in Tokyo, where he spent six years managing MLA's program in Japan and Korea. He joined MLA from consumer research agency Kantar Millward Brown where he managed insights projects for clients such as Unilever, Arnott's, Ferrero and Kellogg's.

Andrew's family are from Mudgee, NSW, where they established 'Burrundulla' (a mixed grazing, cropping and vineyard property) in 1821.



Associate Professor Ben Lyons

Associate Professor Ben Lyons is the Director of the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE), a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries-funded research collaboration between the University of Queensland, the University of Southern Queensland, James Cook University and CQUniversity. He leads a diverse team of experienced researchers investigating what makes rural and regional economies thrive and covering a wide range of topics such as rural workforce, water governance, environmental offsets, value chains, circular economy concepts, regional innovation, and energy transition. Previously he has worked in China and Asia for almost two decades in agribusiness, media and education management before returning as the CEO of local economic development agency TSBE in 2015. Fluent in mandarin, Ben has a doctorate in economics specialising in agribusiness value chains from the University of Queensland.



Peter Wilson

Peter Wilson is Managing Director of Wilson International Trade, a business focused on providing superior services to global trade, logistics and agribusiness.

Peter has held Board, Executive Management and Senior Trading positions for listed and private International Trading and Logistics companies in Australia and Canada. Peter is Immediate Past Chair and current Board Member of Pulse Australia Limited and he is also a member of the Global Pulse Confederation's Executive Committee.

Peter is a Board Member of Regional Development Australia, which is responsible for determining strategy for the region in the areas of development, sustainability and resilience. He is also an Executive Committee Member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland.

Peter holds post-graduate qualifications in Agribusiness from Monash University and has lectured in agribusiness and risk management subjects at the University of Queensland.

Peter maintains a keen interest in a family farming business on the Darling Downs in Southern Queensland.



Mark Harvey-Sutton

Mark Harvey-Sutton was appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council on 18 January 2019.

Previous to ALEC, Mark was the Manager of Rural Affairs at NFF, the a/g CEO of the Sheepmeat Council of Australia and Policy Director of Cattle Council of Australia. Before joining those organisations Mark worked for the Australian Government across a range of roles and issues including as Assistant Director, Meat and Livestock Policy at the then Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, and as Departmental Liaison Officer for the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Laws for James Cook University, a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from the Australian National University and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mark is also admitted as a Lawyer in the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

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