



*Environmental challenges and opportunities  
for Australian livestock industries*

# LIVESTOCK 2024

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Presented by



**ALBURY**  
**21-22 AUGUST 2024**

# CONFERENCE PARTNERS

SALRC WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THEIR PARTNERS



## YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS



# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2024

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 - 9:15	Conference opening	Ian Rogan (SALRC Chair) & Alexandra Gartmann (Victorian Agriculture & Climate Change Council)
9:15 - 9:45	<b>Ag Sustainability</b> - Can Australia speak local sustainability language?	Ian McConnel (McConnel Consulting)
9:45 - 10:15	<b>Other industries</b> - Looking over the fence	Chris Cosgrove (Cotton Industry) Gillian Hayman (Dairy Industry)
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Morning Break</b>	
<b>THEME 1 - LAND, AIR AND WATER</b>		
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Monitoring what you manage:</b> Tangible indicators for soil health and emissions reduction	Dr Lynne Macdonald (CSIRO)
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Talking the language of metrics:</b> Trends and metrics for biodiversity and other biophysical elements of sustainability	Andrew Macintosh (Australian National University)
11:30 - 11:45	<b>Carbon Opportunities – Inset is the new offset:</b> Understanding carbon neutrality targets and emissions reductions on farms <b>Panel session with speakers</b>	Prof Richard Eckard (University of Melbourne) Mark Ritchie (SALRC Producer) Julian Carroll (Beef Producer)
12:15 - 12:45	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:45 - 13:15	<b>Sustainability Frameworks in action:</b> - <a href="#">Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework</a> - <a href="#">Australian Beef Sustainability Framework</a> - <a href="#">Australian Sheep Sustainability Framework</a>	Anwen Lovett (NFF) Courtney Nelson (MLA)
13:15 - 14:00	<b>Workshop Session - Theme 1</b>	
<b>THEME 2 - OUR PEOPLE</b>		
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Trust our Sustainability:</b> Increasing awareness in the general community and in our meat markets through credible reporting of sustainability targets and outcomes achieved	Jacob Betros (MLA)
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Myth Busting Adoption:</b> Increasing the skills and knowledge amongst livestock producers and service providers to enable adoption of sustainability practices and monitoring of outcomes	Alison Kelly (Agriculture Victoria)
15:00 - 15:30	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
15:30 - 16:45	<b>Workshop Session - Theme 2</b>	
16:45 - 17:00	<b>Conference Closing - Day 1</b>	Alexandra Gartmann

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2024

<b>18:30</b>	<b>SALRC RURAL BANK LIVESTOCK 2024 GALA DINNER</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keynote Address, Rural Bank</li> <li>- Presentation of <b>SALRC Awards</b></li> <li>- Panel session with <b>Young Professional Scholarship</b> recipients, facilitated by Christine White</li> </ul>

## DAY 2 - THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2024

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome and recap of day one	Alexandra Gartmann
<b>THEME 3: SHOW US THE VALUE TRAIL</b>		
8:45 - 9:15	<b>The Sustainability and Productivity Partnership:</b> Understanding impacts on productivity and economic performance on farms of adopting sustainability targets	Dr Elizabeth Heagney (Farming for the Future) Allison Mudford (SALRC Producer)
9:15 - 9:45	<b>Environmental Credibility Markets:</b> Attaining value-based marketing of Australian meat products. Promoting the environmental credentials of our industry to access and secure price premiums in key domestic and international markets	Laura Grubb (Greenham)
9:45 - 10:15	<b>Shared values, sharing value:</b> Communicating the true value of ag sustainability initiatives	Katie McRobert (Australian Farm Institute)
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Morning Break</b>	
10:30 - 11:30	<b>Workshop Session - Theme 3</b>	
<b>CONFERENCE CONCLUSION</b>		
11:30 - 11:45	Application of learnings from the two-days from the perspective of two producers	Lisa Anderson & Ben Young (SALRC Producers)
11:45 - 12:30	Panel session – bringing together the learnings from the two days and discuss how these may be applied - the condensed view of the speakers	Panel comprising speakers from each theme plus key producers
12:30 - 13:00	<b>Livestock sustainability in the future</b> - What next...	Alexandra Gartmann & Ian Rogan
13:00	<b>Conference concludes with Lunch</b>	
14:00 - 16:00	<b>BarenBrug Howlong Research Site Visit</b> <a href="#">Click here</a> to download a flyer with more information about the Barenbrug Howlong Research Farm Site Visit.	

# CONFERENCE FACILITATORS



## **IAN ROGAN** (SALRC Chair)

Ian Rogan is the Chair of the Southern Australian Livestock Research Council (SALRC Inc). He comes from a beef and dairy cattle farming family in the Clarence River region of northern NSW, and currently lives on a small rural property in the Central Tablelands of NSW. He has an honours degree in Rural Science from the University of New England and over 40 years of professional experience in the public and private sectors providing R,D & E services for the livestock industries across Australia.

That professional experience includes the conduct of sheep genetics research with NSW DPI; regional, state and national R&D management roles with NSW DPI, the South Australian Dept of Agriculture and Australian Wool Innovation; project management and livestock producer consulting services with Hassall and Associates Pty Ltd; strategic planning and project management consulting services for MLA, the Sheep CRC, Dairy Australia, NSW DPI and other organisations.



## **ALEXANDRA GARTMANN** (Chair Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council)

Alexandra is Chair of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council, a Non Executive Director of Nufarm, the Deputy Chair of the Australian Wool Testing Authority, Chair of the Australian Farm Institute, a trustee of Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, and a Director of the One Basin CRC.

Former executive roles include CEO of Rural Bank and Executive at the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group; CEO of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal; CEO of the Birchip Cropping Group and Community Landcare Coordinator in the wheatbelt of WA. She has worked in western China and Chile on rural development projects.

Former board and advisory roles include Chair of the CSIRO Agriculture and Food Advisory Council, a member of the Australian Landcare Council, Crawford Fund, Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership, Victorian Flood Disaster Appeal Panel, Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee.

# SPEAKERS



## IAN MCCONNEL (McConnel Consulting)

Ian McConnel is the immediate past-President of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and has recently started McConnel Consulting, an outlet to share his global experience in sustainable food production and trade. Through this work Ian supports companies to better understand and capitalise on the opportunities available through well implemented ESG strategies.

He has previously spent a decade as WWF's Global Lead for Livestock supporting sustainable development in the beef industry across 22 countries before joining Tyson foods as their International Director of Sustainability. He led the company's efforts to 'Feed the Future' within their global supply chains and production operations through efforts to combat climate change, improve animal welfare, ensure positive land use, and protect people.

A 5th generation beef producer, Ian began his career as an Extension Officer in Remote Western Queensland where he pioneered innovations in extension delivery and led the trialling and development of remote animal management systems such as walk-over-weighing and telemetry.



## CHRIS COSGROVE (Cotton Australia)

Chris is one of Australia's most experienced agrifood sustainability practitioners. He has been involved in corporate sustainability since 2002, and has specialised in agrifood sustainability since 2014, working in the cotton, beef, grains, horticulture and other industries. He previously worked in investor relations, corporate communications, and government. Chris was raised on a Darling Downs farm, attended a one-teacher school, has authored a young adult sustainability novel, speaks intermediate level Mandarin Chinese, and has worked in Australia and Hong Kong. He now lives in Hobart, Tasmania.



## GILLIAN HAYMAN (Dairy Producer)

Gillian Hayman is a partner in a dairy farm business at Fish Creek in southern Victoria. The farming business has been tracking its environmental footprint for many years including GHG emissions. In excess of 130 species of fauna have been recorded on the farm and an annual revegetation program is in place.

With a 30 year career in natural resource management (NRM), agriculture and regional development Gillian has worked with a broad range of organisations and has a strong understanding from farm level through to strategic planning and policy. Gillian sits on the Victorian Agriculture Climate Change Council and has led dairy research and extension projects in this space.

# SPEAKERS



## **PROF RICHARD ECKARD** (Professor & Director of Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre, University of Melbourne)

Richard is Professor and Director of the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on carbon farming and accounting towards carbon neutral agriculture, managing extreme climate events and options for agriculture to respond to a changing climate.

Richard developed the first greenhouse gas accounting tools for agriculture with his research and expertise provided the science basis for the development of six carbon offset methods in Australia.

In 2021, Richard was named on the Reuters list of the world's 1,000 most influential climate scientists and appointed as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



## **JULIAN CARROLL** (Beef producer and former SALRC Central Victorian Regional Chair)

Julian Carroll is principal of Stellar Livestock which is a seedstock and commercial beef enterprise based at Mudgegonga in Victoria's North East. A 4th generation farmer on the family property, Julian returned to the land in 2008 after 20 years in Melbourne spent mostly running an IT company. Julian is passionate about the adoption and promotion of best practice, has presented at various conferences around the state, and is a former SALRC Regional Chair. In 2023 Julian implemented the first project in Agriculture Victoria's On-farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot.



## **MARK RITCHIE** (Sheep and beef producer and SALRC Central Victorian Regional Committee Producer Member)

Mark and his wife Fenella have been running the family grazing enterprise on Delatite Station, Mansfield since 1990. They run two enterprises, a self-replacing flock of fine wool merinos and a self-replacing, spring calving herd of Angus cows.

Mark and Fenella are constantly striving to run a profitable business based on an ability to identify risks and develop management strategies to deal with them, whilst continually focusing on the main goal of improving productivity. They are a supplier of beef to the Coles Finest Carbon Neutral brand and in recent years they have been looking at ways to reduce their emissions intensity so that ultimately, they will have access to those markets that require low carbon supply.

# SPEAKERS



## **DR LYNNE MACDONALD** (Principal Research Scientist CSIRO)

As a research scientist with CSIRO Agriculture & Food, Dr Lynne Macdonald currently leads a portfolio of work on soil carbon, soil health, and low emissions agriculture. Trained as a soil microbiologist, her interests have broadened in scale to include understanding the benefits and trade-offs of management decisions on production resilience and environmental impacts. She enjoys defining and addressing complex science challenges relevant to stakeholder needs, and in translating scientific data into accessible indicators/tools to guide on-farm target setting.



## **ANDREW MACINTOSH** (Professor and Director of Research, The Australian National University Law School)

Professor Andrew Macintosh is a regulatory and environmental markets expert based at the ANU Law School, where he is Director of Research. He is one of Australia's preeminent experts on environmental policy design and evaluation, particularly the design and administration of environmental markets and environmental certification schemes.

Among other things, he was Chair of the Australian Government's Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee and Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee between 2013-2020, a member of the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund Expert Reference Group in 2014, an Associate Member of the Climate Change Authority in 2015-2016, a member of the Expert Panel Examining Additional Sources of Low Cost Abatement (King Review) in 2019-2020, a member of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Expert Review Panel in 2019-2020, and is currently a program lead for the Australian Government's Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package and Platform for Land & Nature Repair. Between 2019 and early 2021, he also Chaired Accounting for Nature Ltd's Standards & Accreditation Committee and prepared its accreditation standard for environmental accounts, the first of its kind in Australia.

In 2020, he served as one of the three Commissioners on the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (otherwise known as the 'Bushfires Royal Commission').

Professor Macintosh works extensively with the private sector as an advisor and director. He is currently a non-executive director of the Paraway Pastoral Company. He was also a strategic advisor to LMS Energy Pty Ltd in 2021, a director of the Port of Newcastle over the period 2017-2019 and a director of the Sydney Desalination Plant between 2018-2020.

His research has been published in the most prestigious environment journals in the world, including Nature Climate Change, Climatic Change and the Journal of Environmental Law. Professor Macintosh was awarded the Schlamadinger Prize for Climate Change Research in 2012.



# SPEAKERS



## **COURTNEY NELSON** (Secretariat & Manager of Australia's Sheep Sustainability Framework, Meat & Livestock Australia)

Courtney Nelson is the secretariat and manager of Australia's Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF) at Meat & Livestock Australia.

She has a passion for working with people and a desire to support the long-term productivity and profitability of the Australian livestock industry, which made the transition to sustainability a natural evolution after several years working for the research and livestock export sectors.

Courtney has a particular interest in ensuring the effective communication of sustainability research and reporting to ensure that the SSF can help to inform investment which contributes to improvements in the sheepmeat and wool industries.

In addition to being a trained animal bioscientist and completing an honours degree at the University of Sydney, Courtney holds a Master of Science Communication from the Australian National University.

# SPEAKERS



## **JACOB BETROS** (Manager of Australia's Beef Sustainability Framework, Meat & Livestock Australia)

Jacob is the Manager of Beef Sustainability with Meat & Livestock Australia, and responsible for the management of the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF) and related projects. This includes ESG reporting in alignment with the Global Reporting Initiative Standards, the management of data collection projects, alignment of stakeholder priorities, and - in collaboration with RDA - coordination of research and adoption programs within MLA to deliver on the ABSF objectives. Jacob collaborates with marketing and communication teams to promote the sustainability credentials of Australian beef to key markets.



## **ALISON KELLY** (Farm Emissions Specialist, Agriculture Victoria)

Alison has over 20 years experience in national leadership positions working on climate change and environmental issues within the Australian agricultural sector. This includes working with industry and research organisations, such as Dairy Australia, Horticulture Australia, and the University of Melbourne, successfully implementing significant environmental and climate research projects for agriculture. She has also held Chair and Non-executive Director roles for a number NFP businesses, including Climate for Change and as one of eight Chairs of the Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd Strategic Investment Advisory Panels. In 2023 she was recognised as a Finalist in the Women's Agenda Leadership Awards as an emerging leader in Climate and Sustainability.

Alison is currently working as the Farm Emissions Specialist with Agriculture Victoria leading a small, but high impact team working directly with Victorian farmers to know, understand and act on their emissions.

# SPEAKERS



## **DR ELIZABETH HEAGNEY** (Director of Research, Farming for the Future Program)

Dr. Elizabeth Heagney is the Director of Research for the Farming for the Future Program. Liz has designed and implemented large-scale research projects focussing on productivity and efficiency in primary industries in Australia and the Pacific, including the farming, fisheries and forestry sectors. Liz is an experienced economic analyst and program manager, having held positions across government, academia and the private sector over the past 20 years, helping to build the case for practice change that improves both economic and environmental outcomes. Liz holds degrees in Advanced Science and International Economic Development, and a PhD in Ecology from the University of NSW.



## **ALLISON MUDFORD** (Beef Producer and SALRC Northern NSW Regional Committee Producer Member)

Alli is passionate about agriculture, a first-generation farmer, alongside her husband she owns and manages a grazing and cropping aggregation across the Upper Hunter and Liverpool Plains in rural NSW.

With qualifications in Agricultural Science, Alli has experience and expertise from senior roles in the government and for-purpose sectors, managing a range of complex, high-profile programs in Landcare, disaster recovery, water efficiency, youth empowerment and many others.

Contemporary farming and how natural resource management fits with productivity is something Alli likes to have her finger on the pulse of especially as our knowledge, wisdom and thinking changes in this space over time. She is the Chair of Hunter LLS Board (part of the state wide natural capital working group), is an active committee member of the Southern Australian Livestock Research Council (representing SALRC on Beef Environmental Sustainability Framework) and regularly trials and tests MLA platforms and programs as a producer adviser (Carbon Edge, Environmental Credentials, Integrity Systems etc). One of the farms at Cassilis NSW, was part of the FFTF pilot.

# SPEAKERS



## **LAURA GRUBB** (Sustainability & Engagement Specialist, Greenham)

Laura has a deep passion for showcasing the sustainability of beef production. Originally hailing from Western Australia, Laura has been fortunate to have worked with producers across all states in Australia through a variety of roles in the industry over the past 10 years. Laura has spent time working in North America and more recently supporting farmers and producers across many of the world's developing countries. Earlier this year Laura joined Greenham to lead their sustainability story. Most importantly helping producers to translate customer trends into on farm practices that support healthy businesses.



## **KATIE MCROBERT** (Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute)

Experienced in the fields of policy research, editing, communications, and project management, Katie McRobert has been part of the Australian Farm Institute team since late 2017, holding roles as Senior Researcher and General Manager before becoming Executive Director in April 2024. Prior to joining AFI, Katie worked as a global Content and Community Manager for Rabobank, liaising with farming clients to build knowledge banks, and as the National Editor for FarmOnline. Katie has an MBA from Griffith University specialising in Sustainable Business. She is currently Chair of the CSIRO Drought Resilience Mission Advisory Group, and a member of the NSW Environmental Trust Biodiversity Technical Review Committee, the federal Australian Agricultural Traceability Governance Group, the CSIRO Agriculture & Food external advisory group, and the NSW Farm Writers Committee. At the AFI, Katie's role gives her the opportunity to deep dive into evidence-based policy research focused on the sustainability of agrifood systems – work she feels proud and privileged to be part of.

# SPEAKERS



## **LISA ANDERSON** (Sheep producer and Regional Chair Southern NSW SALRC Regional Committee)

Lisa Anderson is a grain and prime lamb producer based at The Gap, near Wagga Wagga. She has served as the Chair of Southern NSW since 2018. Lisa also represents SALRC on the MLA Red Meat Panel. She has been actively involved in the MeatUp Steering Committee and numerous Producer Assessment Panels for both Research Projects and PDS (Producer Demonstration Site) Projects.

In addition to her involvement in the Red Meat Industry, Lisa is also the Agrifutures Pasture Seeds Advisory Panel Chair and has been on the Steering Committee for EvokeAg. She has recently been appointed as the Chair of Riverina Local Land Services, having served an initial 12 months on that board.

Lisa has dipped her toe in the water of all things 'Sustainability' and brings a producer perspective. Always curious, she has participated in the ABSF Updates, Natural Capital Conversations (Riverina LLS) and the Natural Capital Service Delivery workshops (NSW LLS).

Lisa is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. She has a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company.



## **BEN YOUNG** (Sheep and beef producer and Regional Chair Western Victorian SALRC Regional Committee)

Ben is co-director and manager of 'Chiltern Park', a prime lamb and Angus beef operation at Macarthur, Victoria. Ben is passionate about lifting productivity and improving profits by implementing improved pasture grazing systems, as well as increasing meat quality and animal welfare standards. He has substantially expanded the family business through increased stocking rates, purchasing and also leasing land – the latter currently making up 50% of the business – giving him a strong understanding of the challenges that young producers face.

Ben is a strong proponent of profitable and sustainable farming practices and seeks to provide the best RD&A outcomes for Western Victoria. He is also a strong believer in providing young people with the tools and opportunities to succeed in agriculture. Ben has been actively involved in the Victorian Betterbeef program and Grasslands Society of Southern Australia.