

PROGRAM



NORTHERN AUSTRALIA FOOD FUTURES CONFERENCE 2016

Developing the Future of Agriculture in the North

11 - 13 APRIL - DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Proudly presented by

NTFARMERS

www.foodfuturesntfarmers.org.au

Message from NT Farmers, CEO - Mr Shenal Basnayake



Welcome to Northern Australia Food Futures 2016.

NT Farmers represents farmers who have succeeded in northern agriculture, producing around \$200 million of turnover in 2015, starting from a small cottage industry in 1980. Success in northern agriculture is possible, led by good government policies, driven by markets and economics and implemented by good business models. Politicians have created a great environment for northern development. It's up to us in the community to put some meat on the bone of development, the can do and the how to.

Food Futures Conferences brings together our friends in Western Australia and Queensland to discuss development of cropping in northern Australia. Held in the Darwin NT, Food Futures is truly a northern event, with farmers from a vast area covering the Top End, the Gulf, the Cape, the Ord the Center and the Kimberley. We are all in the same development space, with common issues and common problems. Different regions have different ideas and different solutions, an important part of Food Futures Conferences.

Thank you for supporting and participating in this important industry event and we hope you enjoy your stay in Darwin.



Program Overview

EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAY 11 APRIL		
NT Farmers Association President's Lunch <i>Invitation only</i>	12noon - 2.30pm	Waterfront Room 3
Welcome Reception, <i>Hosted by the Government of the Northern Territory The Honourable Gary Higgins MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries</i>	5.30pm - 7.00pm	Parliament House <i>Mitchell St, Darwin</i>
TUESDAY 12 APRIL		
Conference Day 1	8.30am - 5.00pm	Darwin Convention Centre - Halls 1 & 2
Conference Dinner	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Darwin Convention Centre - Halls 1 & 2
WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL		
Conference Day 2	8.30am - 4.30pm	Darwin Convention Centre - Halls 1 & 2

Program

Tuesday 12 April: DAY 1

0730 Registration Opens

0820 Conference Welcome with Master of Ceremonies, The Honourable Brendon Grylls MLA, Member for Pilbara

0830 Welcome to Country

Mr Richard Fejo

0835 - 0850 Opening

His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM, Administrator of the Northern Territory

0850 - 0920 The case for northern development: perspectives of the Australian Government

Speaker: Senator Matt Canavan Minister for Northern Australia

0920 - 1005 PANEL SESSION: What do investors want?

Chair: Matt Brann - ABC Country Hour. Panelists: Wendy Holdenson - VP Mitsui Australia, Patrick Vizzone - NAB Asia, Geoff Raby - Geoff Raby & Assoc. (Beijing)

1005 - 1030 Foreign Investment Review Board update

Speaker: Brian Wilson, Chairman FIRB.

Changes in foreign investment rules make this an area of importance for attracting foreign investment. The Chairman of FIRB will provide an update on foreign investment in agriculture.

1030 - 1100 MORNING TEA

1100 -1115 Making foreign investment work on the ground

Speaker: Jim Engelke, Kimberley Agricultural Investments (KAI), (WA). Relationships are the key to successful investments, an added dimension when differences in cultural thinking are a factor. Jim shares his experience about the importance of developing close working relationships, which has been a key factor in the success of KAI.

1115 - 1200 PANEL SESSION: Making new investments work

Chair: Ashley Manicaros, NT News. **Panelists:** David Anthony (Auscott NSW), Hendri Mentz (Deloitte NT), Brian Healy (K&L Gates QLD), Bruce Vandersee (Vandefield Australia).

A group of key investors and advisors discuss the commercial realities of agricultural investments.

1200 - 1245 PANEL SESSION: Crop economics

Chair: Ashley Manicaros, NT News. **Panelists:** David Hanlon (The Right Mind QLD), Rob Boshammer (Fodder North, Ord WA), Greg Mason (QLD DAF) and Dr. Andrew Ash (CSIRO QLD).

This group discusses where the opportunities might be within crops and regions.

1245 - 1330 PANEL SESSION: Crop systems

Chair: Kristy O'Brien ABC Darwin. **Panelists:** Bob Williams (NT DPIF), Jim Engelke (KAI WA), Gareth Jones (DAF QLD), Stephen Donnelly (Blue Ribbon QLD).

A group of farmers and researchers look at cropping systems for successful developments in northern Australia, especially irrigation, multiple crops per year and specific crops in a rotation.

1330 - 1430 LUNCH

1430 - 1500 Investor's perspective of agri-investments

Speaker: David Williams of Kidder Williams, specialists in agri-sector investments, provides some straight talking on investments in northern agriculture.

1500 - 1545 PANEL SESSION: Logistics and supply chains

Chair: Kristy O'Brien ABC Darwin. **Panelists:** Tom Holyman (ANL), Stephen Donnelly (Blue Ribbon QLD).

Freight operators and supply chain managers give insights and understanding about moving product to markets.

1545 - 1630 PANEL SESSION: A perspective from the top

Chair: Matt Brann ABC Country Hour. **Panelists:** Three northern Ministers - The Hon. Gary Higgins, Minister for Primary Industry & Fisheries (NT), The Hon. Leanne Donaldson, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD) and The Hon. Mia Davies, Minister for Water (WA).

The three northern Ministers will discuss their individual approaches to northern agriculture and how they can work together across the region. The Ministers will also discuss how they can work together collaboratively, as well as with the Federal government to further develop northern agriculture.

1630 - 1700 PANEL SESSION: Summary session

Chair: Bridgette Bellenger, Executive Director, Northern Australia Development Office, Darwin. **Panelists:** Alistair Trier CEO DPIF (NT), Beth Woods Director General DAF (QLD), Peter Stubbs Executive Director Dept. Regional Development (WA) and Christine Quick CEO RIRDC.

1700 FINISH

1900 CONFERENCE DINNER

Wednesday 13 April: DAY 2

0830 – 0915 PANEL SESSION: Implementing the Northern White Paper, public infrastructure and government policy.

Chair: Anna Vidot, ABC Rural Canberra. **Panelists:** Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water, Jack Archer CEO Regional Australia Institute and David Hassum Director IFED.

Senator Anne Ruston, Asst. Minister for Agriculture and Water will discuss practical assistance government can give to add impetus to northern development and agricultural development with Jack Archer, CEO of Regional Australia Institute, at the coal-face of assisting regions across the north, and David Hassum, Director IFED development in the Gulf, the practical face of interaction with government in developing the north.

0915 – 1000 PANEL SESSION: Human capital for development.

Chair: Anna Vidot ABC Rural Canberra. **Panelists:** Prof. Simon Maddocks (Vice Chancellor CDU NT), David Shearer (ACIAR), John Wharton (Chair of the CRC for Northern Development) and Dr. Wayne Hall (QLD DAF).

Discussing the role of R&D in developing a successful industry.

1000 – 1030 Water for food

Speaker: The Hon. Mia Davies, Minister for Water (WA)

The WA Government has been active in developing northern regions, especially since the Royalties for Regions policy.

1030 – 1100 MORNING TEA

1100 DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS FOR INVESTMENT

1100 – 1145 PANEL SESSION: Working with the pastoral sector

Chair: Tracey Hayes, CEO NT Cattleman's Assoc. **Panelists:** Paul Ryan, Olive Vale Station, Cape York (QLD), Phil Hams, GoGo Station (WA), Lynette Shaw (CEO) Gooniyandi Corp. and Bruce White, Mt Keppler Station (NT).

Farming on pastoral properties is advancing, including poppies on Tipperary Station NT, rice on Mt Keppler in the NT, cropping in the Gulf and Cape York and forage crops on Go Go Station in WA.

1145 – 1230 PANEL SESSION: Greenfield developments

Chair: Kristy O'Brien, ABC Darwin. **Panelists:** Vin Lange (Centrefarm CLC and TopEnd Farm NLC), Paul McLaughlin Desert Farms NT, Kane Youngusband (Farmer NT and WA) and Guy Boyd (Rivulis QLD).

This panel will look at starting from scratch on greenfield developments.

1230 – 1315 PANEL SESSION: Public models for development

Chair: Kristy O'Brien, ABC Darwin. **Panelists:** Peter Stubbs, Dept. Regional Development (WA), John Ruprecht Dept. Agriculture and Food (WA) and David Menzell, Barradale Farms (Ord WA).

This panel brings the experience of public and private sectors, mainly from the Ord, in developing a large irrigation scheme.

1315 – 1400 LUNCH

1400 – 1445 PANEL SESSION: What our leaders think

Chair: Brent Finlay, President National Farmers Federation. **Panelists:** Senator Anne Ruston, Federal Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water and Joel Fitzgibbon MP Shadow Minister for Agriculture.

Brent Finlay will lead an interesting discussion between two of our national leaders in agriculture. The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper and Northern Australia Development White paper will set the scene for government's input into the future development of the north.

1445 - 1530 PANEL SESSION: Land Tenure

Chair: Mark Wilton, NT Rural Weekly. **Panelists:** Prof. Alan Dale (James Cook University, QLD), Emeritus Prof. John Holmes (University of Queensland, QLD), Alastair Shields (CEO, Dept. Land Resource Management).

Land tenure is seen as a constraint especially for some foreign investors. This panel discusses new thinking around land tenure.

1530 - 1615 PANEL SESSION: Water

Chair: Mark Wilton, NT Rural Weekly. **Panelists:** Prof. Michael Douglas (Northern Australia Environmental Research Hub, University of WA), Graham Tupper (Australian Conservation Foundation), Dr. Peter Gehrke (OPUS, QLD) and Simon Skevington (Water for Food program, WA).

Water is at the centre of development of irrigated agriculture in northern Australia. A group of scientists and managers will be looking at the balance between water, environment and development.

1615 Conference closing: The Hon. Gary Higgins, Minister for Primary Industry & Fisheries (NT) and MC Brendon Grylls.

Contacts

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Exhibitors

Northern Territory Government Dept. Primary Industry & Fisheries North Australian Development Office Dept. of Businessw Dept. Land Resource Management	Western Australia Government
ANL	NT Rural Weekly
CSIRO	Biosecurity Fire Ant Eradication Program Queensland
Office of Northern Australia	Animal Control Technologies
Bees Creek Honey	Charles Darwin University
OPUS	Kimberly to Cape
Prime Super	Seasonal Worker Program
Vanderfield	NTFA/DrumMuster
Rivulis	Kakadu Plum Opportunity
Water Dynamics	AUSURV Surveyors



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