

AARES is the pre-eminent society promoting research and tertiary education relevant to Australasia in agricultural, environmental, food, and resource economics and agribusiness. Media are welcome to attend the AARES annual conference at the Grand Chancellor Hotel Brisbane 11-14 February. Please contact [Cathy Reade](#) 0413 575 934 to arrange interviews or to register to attend. The conference program is [here](#).

LEADING ECONOMISTS MEET ON TRANSITIONING TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We face a range of challenges that are linked to transitioning to a sustainable future, while negotiating pathways towards decarbonisation, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring food security and affordability. This is the focus for leading economists from around Australia and the world meeting in Brisbane (11-14 February) for the 69th Annual Conference of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES). Some of the distinguished speakers and their presentation topics include:

Professor Ian Bateman OBE, University of Exeter, United Kingdom and adviser to numerous UK Secretaries of State for the Environment. He will argue a **land use policy rethink** is vital to give taxpayers better value for money spent on addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and food security, such as those focused on increasing carbon storage via afforestation. His findings are based on a decision support tool that combines artificial intelligence (AI) with state of the art scientific and economic models.

Professor Tom Kompas, an expert in environmental economics and biosecurity at the University of Melbourne is releasing new economic analysis which backs up the most recent scientific reports indicating that a **less than a 2°C warming outcome by 2100 appears very unlikely**.

Dr David Vanzetti, Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the School of Agricultural and Resource Economics, The University of Western Australia, is presenting **new analysis of the trade and income implications of the Trump Administrations' proposed tariffs**, and the best response to them.

Professor Philip G. Pardey, Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Minnesota, is a global expert in sustainable agricultural productivity growth and the economic impacts of agricultural R&D. He will present **new evidence on the rapidly changing global landscape for agricultural production and agri-food R&D**, and suggest ways to better create and share the benefits from improved crop varieties.

Professor Ross Kingwell, AARES Distinguished Fellow and recent winner of the prestigious Seed of Light award from the Grains R&D Corporation will outline the **challenges and opportunities facing Australia's grain supply chains** and impacts on local food prices, export revenues and farmers' incomes.

Professor John Rolfe, Professor of Regional Economic Development in the School of Business and Law at the CQ University will be addressing water quality on the Great Barrier Reef and **how to encourage greater landholder involvement** and improved approaches to better manage the Great Barrier Reef.

Professor John Quiggin, Professor in Economics at the University of Queensland, finds that despite good rainfall in recent years, progress towards sustainable management of the Murray Darling Basin remains limited and fragile. He will discuss the **sustainable management of the Murray Darling Basin**, including the effectiveness of the recent shift to water buybacks in leading to sustainable improvements.

Professor Katrin Rehdanz, a specialist in environmental and energy economics at Kiel University, Germany will address "**International Trade in Agricultural Products**," including changes in consumption patterns needed in rich countries to sustainably protect biodiversity and the climate, while ensuring food security.

Professor Stuart Whitten, Research Director of Sustainability Pathways at CSIRO Environment will discuss the practical and policy challenges across the economy of **achieving net zero emissions in Australia**, and why and how the nature of future mining and resource transitions are likely to be different to those experienced previously for communities and economies.

Professor Frank Jotzo, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions, and Centre for Climate and Energy Policy will consider the **profound shift that electricity is undergoing in Australia**, whether government underwriting might need to be continued, whether national electricity market reform is needed and how much government involvement in the renewables dominated grid of the future may be needed.