**Special Session**

***The Resilient Farm: Lessons learned from Southern Queensland***

**Keywords:** ‘Farm Management and Farmer Behaviour’, ‘Uncertainty and Risk’

**Presenters:**

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| Professor Ben Lyons  Director - Institute for Resilient Regions (IRR) - UNISQ |
| Queensland Farmer’s Federation - (Kerry Battersby) |
| Dr Phil Currey – RECoE UNISQ |
| Dr Marlyn McInnerney – RECoE UNISQ |
| Dr Geoff Woolcock – RECoE UNISQ |
| Andrew Drysdale - RECoE UNISQ |
| Dr Robert Mellor- RECoE UNISQ |
| Professor John Rolfe - Professor of Regional Economic Development, CQUniversity (RECoE CQU). |

**Special Session Description**

**Theme:** Over the past 4 years, the Institute for Resilient Regions (IRR) at the University of Southern Queensland – which includes: the Regional Economies Centre of Excellence team (RECoE-UNISQ) and the Southern Queensland/Northern NSW Drought Innovation Hub (SQNNSW) - have undertaken number of key projects focussed on the sustainability and resilience of agricultural enterprises in southern Queensland. In particular, these projects have examined resilience from various perspectives: drought and climate change; economic shocks; personal and social wellbeing; tools and skills to build resilience; policy and governance frameworks to support resilient agriculture and rural communities.

This panel session would showcase some of those projects (many still ongoing) and highlight some of the key lessons learned – that together help build a profile of the “Resilient Farm”

**Format:** a panel session – hosted by an MC/Facilitator, with short presentations followed by Q&A

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**Special Session Format and Presenter Roles**

**Duration: 1.5 hrs**

**Format:** a panel session – hosted by an MC/Facilitator, with short presentations followed by Q&A

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| MC/Facilitator  5mins | Professor Ben Lyons  Executive Director - Institute for Resilient Regions (IRR)  UNISQ | Introduce the session and explain format  Introduce the Speakers  “**Background to the lessons learned – key IRR/RECoE projects”** |
| **“The Resilient Farm is one that is able to….** | | |
| Panellist  10mins | Queensland Farmer’s Federation  Ms. Kerry Battersby | **Plan their Business**  QFF will speak about the need for farm business planning, and the lessons learned from their delivery of the Farm Business Resilience Planning program in Qld |
| Panellist  10mins | Dr Phil Currey – RECoE UNISQ | **Diversify**  Phil will explain the results from his recent research into Farm business diversification (on-farm and off farm) and market orientation |
| Panellist  10mins | Dr Marlyn McInnerney - RECoE UNISQ | **Change the stories and narratives of farming**  Marlyn will discuss the lessons from her “Climate Smart Women” projects and the important stories from women producers across Qld |
| Panellist  10mins | Dr Geoff Woolcock -RECoE UNISQ | **Take positive steps to support ‘Wellbeing’**  This presentation will explore the issues and lessons learned from some key projects related to personal and community wellbeing in rural and regional communities |
| Panellist  10mins | Andrew Drysdale - RECoE UNISQ | **Manage their Land well**  This presentation will discuss issues and findings in terms of sustainable land management their improves resilience – landscape and vegetation management; stock management; water management; mixed landuse with agriculture and renewables; carbon markets and natural assets |
| Panellist  10mins | Dr Robert Mellor – RECoE UNISQ | **Have Access to practical tools and data….and know how to use them.**  People need to have access to relevant and practical tools and knowledge…and also have the skills to use them. How do we make sure they are available/affordable and how best do we build capacity to use them. |
| Panellist  10mins | Professor John Rolfe CQU | **Have a supportive governance framework and policies**  What needs to be done to provide a framework of governance and policies that best support the ‘Resilient Farm’? |
| 15 mins | Professor Ben Lyons | **Q&A** |