



Conference Program Timetable

Please see following pages for full program details

Presented by
food frontier

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Time	Location					
	Wentworth Ballroom	Edwin Flack Room (Level 5)	Brisbane Room	Canberra Room		
8:15 AM	Arrival (Sofitel Foyer)					
8:30 AM	Registration (Sofitel Foyer)					
9:00 AM	Introduction & Acknowledgement of Country					
9:10 AM	Welcome from Food Frontier					
9:15 AM	Dignitary Address					
9:40 AM	Thinking The Unthinkable					
10:15 AM	Disruption - Changing The Narrative	Food Manufacturing 2050: Shaping The Future Of Sustainable, Resilient Food Systems				
10:55 AM	Taking Stock					
11:15 AM	Morning Tea				Show Me The Money	Plant-Based Dairy Is Booming - What's Next?
11:50 AM	Towards One Table: Bridging Australia's Food Policy Futures					
12:30 PM	Software Has Eaten The World... But Will It Eat Food?				Turning Capital into Capacity	
1:15 PM	Lunch					
	Tasting Hall - Melbourne Room					
2:20 PM	Connecting Cellular To Agriculture - The Biomanufacturing Opportunity For Food	Uniting The Plant Protein Research Ecosystem From Gut To Paddock	Discovery To Real World Application: Advancing Australia's Alternative Protein R&D	Accessing Global Markets: NSW Export Opportunities		
3:00 PM	Scaling Innovation: Unlocking Sectoral Growth Through Collaboration					
3:45 PM	Afternoon Tea					
4:20 PM	What Happens Now?					
4:55 PM	Closing Remarks					
5:00 PM	Networking Drinks					



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
8:15 AM	Sofitel Foyer	Arrival	
8:30 AM	Sofitel Foyer	Registration	
9:00 AM	Wentworth Ballroom	Introduction & Acknowledgement of Country	MC
			Julie Hirsch
9:10 AM	Wentworth Ballroom	Food Frontier Welcome	Hannah Andersen Executive Director, Food Frontier
9:15 AM	Wentworth Ballroom	Dignitary Address	Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
9:40 AM (35 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Thinking The Unthinkable	Introduction
		In a world of rapid change, we must all learn to embrace the unthinkable. From Black Swans to Black Elephant events, it's time to confront the unpredictable and the uncomfortable. Led by Nik Gowing, Founder & Co-Director of Thinking the Unthinkable, this session will explore real-world case studies of those who've successfully navigated chaos and uncertainty, offering practical insights on how to thrive in today's VUCA world. Get ready for a bold, forward-thinking session that will reshape how we all approach disruption.	Kat Dunn Co-Founder, Talk2View Food Frontier Board Member
			Sorcerer of Ideas
			Nik Gowing Founder & Co-Director Thinking the Unthinkable
10:15 AM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Disruption - Changing The Narrative	Facilitator
		Forget the old playbook. Industry leaders like Cecilia Chang, CEO of Mission Barns, and Dr James Petrie, CEO of Nourish Ingredients and Sonalie Figueiras, Founder of Green Queen, are shaking things up by questioning the assumptions we've lived by and flipping the script on product innovation and consumer connection. They'll unpack how shifting mindsets and rebellious thinking are sparking cultural behaviour change. Where is product innovation really headed? And in a world hyper-focused on consumer adoption, is climate impact just an afterthought? Join us for a session that will leave you rethinking what's possible and inspire you to challenge the status quo.	Sonalie Figueiras Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Green Queen
			Speakers
			- Cecilia Chang CEO, Mission Barns - Dr James Petrie Co-Founder & CEO, Nourish Ingredients



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
10:15 AM (60 min)	Edwin Flack Room (Level 5)	Food Manufacturing 2050: Shaping The Future Of Sustainable, Resilient Food Systems	Speakers
		CSIRO and the Australian Food Innovation Network are leading Food Manufacturing 2050 - a national initiative to collaboratively design an R&D and innovation agenda that reflects the real needs of Australia’s food manufacturing sector. This interactive session invites industry stakeholders to shape that agenda through direct input and discussion. Join the conversation on how science, technology, and collaboration can drive a more resilient, low-emissions, and globally competitive food system - and ensure your voice helps guide its future.	• Dr Ingrid Appelqvist Food Innovation Centre Leader, CSIRO • Dr Leif Lundin Food Program Research Director, CSIRO
10:55 AM (20 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Taking Stock	Facilitator
		Nik Gowing takes a moment to check in with the audience, inviting thoughts, feedback, and insights from the day’s discussions so far. With roving mics for a quick Q&A, this session is all about connecting and reflecting on what we’ve covered.	• Nik Gowing Founder & Co-Director Thinking the Unthinkable
11:15 AM (30 min)	Level 3 Foyer	Morning Tea	
11:50 AM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Towards One Table: Bridging Australia’s Food Policy Futures	Facilitator
		Join Dr Rohan Nelson, Ben van Delden, and Andrew Henderson for a deep dive into three of Australia’s most influential food policy papers: <i>Land of Plenty: Transforming Australia into a Food Superpower</i>, the <i>National Food Security Preparedness Green Paper</i>, and <i>Towards a State of the Food System Report for Australia</i>. This session will compare how these distinct frameworks - industry-led growth, national security, and systems-based governance - approach key issues like supply chain resilience and sustainability. We’ll explore where they align, where they diverge, and what it would take to build greater coherence in national food policy. The conversation will also ask: why are emerging sectors like alternative proteins still left out - and how can they be meaningfully integrated into future frameworks?	• Megan Redmond Director, Government & Strategic Engagement Food Frontier Speakers • Dr Rohan Nelson Agricultural & Food System Economist, CSIRO • Ben van Delden Founder & Managing Director Delco AgriFood • Andrew Henderson Founder & Principal, Agsecure



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
11:50 AM (40 min)	Brisbane Room	Show Me The Money	Facilitators
		Why are sustainable food companies struggling to secure investment despite growing demand? This session breaks down the current investment landscape–why venture capitalists are pulling back and what it takes to overcome these challenges. We'll explore funding options, from crowdfunding to traditional venture capital, with success stories that show what's possible. Amy Carter-James, Jim Fader, and Terry Paule will guide you through interactive sessions, offering actionable strategies to unlock the funding your business needs to thrive, while providing plenty of opportunities for you to engage, ask questions, and gain valuable insights directly from the speakers.	• Amy Carter-James Co-Founder & CEO, Raaise • Jim Fader Co-Founder & CEO, Eden Brew • Terry Paule Founder & Executive Director, My Co
12:30 PM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Software Has Eaten The World...But Will It Eat Food? (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		Technology is reshaping industries, but are we ready for true disruption in the food sector? This session explores whether we're prepared for a future where technology challenges our most sacred systems. How can individuals, governments, and global change-makers push ourselves to think the unthinkable and spark transformation in the food system? Are cultural beliefs around food limiting bold solutions, and what will it take to shift this mindset? Join Nik Gowing from Thinking the Unthinkable, Cecilia Chang from Mission Barns, and other thought leaders as they explore the discomfort that transformation demands. This session will delve into how technology can move beyond enabling food production to challenge the status quo and drive the future of food.	• Julie Hirsch MC
			Speakers
			• Cecilia Chang CEO, Mission Barns • Dr James Ryall Biotech Consultant James Ryall Consulting • Dr James Petrie Co-Founder & CEO Nourish Ingredients



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
12:35 PM (40 min)	Canberra Room	Plant-Based Dairy Is Booming—What’s Next? (Concurrent session)	Speakers
		From oat-based milks to new dairy alternative formats and functions, plant-based dairy is no longer niche. This session will explore what’s driving the category’s growth - across consumer demand, ingredient innovation, and product development. With insights from across the value chain, we’ll unpack – and taste! –where the category is heading.	• Andrew May Co-CEO, Essantis • Maddi Easterbrook Founder, Future Swirl • Jimmy Elias Co-Founder, First Press Coffee
12:35 PM (40 min)	Brisbane Room	Turning Capital Into Capacity (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		How do you turn investment into a fully operational commercial facility? This interactive session unpacks the critical steps from pilot to production, covering the operational, technical, and workforce factors that can make or break a successful scale-up. We’ll explore equipment design and facility planning, digital integration and automation, and workforce and skills readiness—drawing on real-world lessons from projects in Australia and abroad.	• Megan Redmond Director, Government & Strategic Engagement Food Frontier
		Our speakers will guide you through interactive discussions, offering practical advice and case studies to help you scale smart, while providing plenty of opportunities to engage, ask questions, and gain insights directly from the experts.	Speakers • Glen Jacob Food & Beverage Industry Manager, ANZ Rockwell Automation • Tom Reddecliffe CEO, Integra Foods • Darren Irwin Business Development Manager - Dairy & Food GEA
1:15 PM (60 min)	Level 3 Foyer	Lunch	
1:15 PM (60 min)	Melbourne Room	Tasting Hall	
		The Tasting Hall features an exciting selection of 40+ products and ingredients from all corners of the industry, to test and try.	



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
2:20 PM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Connecting Cellular To Agriculture - The Biomanufacturing Opportunity For Food (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		Through dynamic conversation, this session explores the power of biomanufacturing to reimagine the future of how Australia makes and grows its food.	• Sam Perkins CEO, Cellular Agriculture Australia
		Led by Sam Perkins, CEO of Cellular Agriculture Australia, speakers will look at how groundbreaking technologies can breathe new life into our agrifood system, creating new, more resilient value streams, driving regional economic growth, and partnering with traditional industries to bolster Australia’s food sovereignty.	Speakers • Dr Jason Whitfield Investment Manager Main Sequence Ventures • Raelene Lockhorst Deputy Director National Security Programs Australian Strategic Policy Institute • Kylie Porter CEO, Greater Whitsunday Alliance
2:20 PM (40 min)	Brisbane Room	Discovery To Real World Application: Advancing Australia’s Alternative Protein R&D (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		This session will spotlight cutting-edge Australian research shaping the future of alternative proteins. It will explore how early-stage science is being translated into real-world potential through university-industry collaboration, incubators, accelerators and public support.	• Dr Jaclyn Aldenhoven Director, Strategy and Programs (Future Industries) Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
		With a focus on breakthrough technologies and the challenges of moving from lab to launch, speakers will share insights into what it takes to unlock the next generation of sustainable food innovation.	Speakers • Associate Professor Mathieu Pernice Deputy Director, Climate Change Cluster University of Technology Sydney • Professor Esteban Marcellin FaBA Innovative Ingredients Program Leader University of Queensland

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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
2:20 PM (40 min)	Edwin Flack Room	Uniting The Plant Protein Research Ecosystem From Gut To Paddock (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		Australia has deep expertise across crop breeding, processing innovation, product application and nutrition research. Now, we must align these capabilities around shared goals and stronger collaboration if we are to seize the nation’s growing plant protein opportunity.	• Megan Redmond Director, Government & Strategic Engagement Food Frontier
		This session will spotlight ecosystem leaders such as the La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture & Food, showing how research excellence and industry partnerships are already driving impact across agriculture, food and health. Building from these examples, the discussion will consider how Australia can coordinate public and private R&D and agrifood sector connectivity to accelerate innovation, improve sustainability and nutritional outcomes, and ensure Australian science translates into competitive advantage in global plant protein markets. Join us to help shape the research partnerships and pathways needed to scale Australia’s plant protein sector.	Speakers • Professor Tony Bacic Director, La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture & Food, La Trobe University • Professor Brent Keiser Professor of Legume Biology & Molecular Genetics, University of Sydney • Dr Cassandra Walker Research Leader, Crop Quality Team Agriculture Victoria Research • Alexandra Lobb Director, ACIL Allen

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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
3:00 PM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Scaling Innovation: Unlocking Sectoral Growth Through Collaboration (Concurrent session)	Facilitator
		This session will explore how innovation and collaboration drive scale, commercialisation, and ecosystem development. Drawing on real-world insights from agrifood industry and government innovation leaders, it aims to showcase a vision for Australia to build globally competitive, future-focused food industries through strategic value chain partnerships and research-driven growth.	• Dr James Ryall Biotech Consultant James Ryall Consulting
			Speakers • Will Schmitt Director, Innovation Programs, Partnerships & Precincts, Investment NSW • Crispin Howitt Senior Principal Research Scientist - Food Program, CSIRO • Mark Baczynski Group Technical Manager, Manildra Group • Andrew Fillery Head of Liquid & Powder Technologies Australia, GEA
3:00 PM (45 min)	Canberra Room	Accessing Global Markets: NSW Export Opportunities (Concurrent session)	Speakers
		In partnership with Investment NSW, Senior Export and TradeStart Adviser Helen Chen will lead an interactive session exploring pathways for New South Wales businesses to access and expand into international markets. Featuring PhycoHealth as a case study, the session offers practical insights and invites you to bring your burning questions on navigating export opportunities and building global competitiveness.	• Helen Chen Senior Export Adviser & TradeStart Adviser Investment NSW • Pia Winberg Founder & CEO, PhycoHealth
3:45 PM (30 min)	Level 3 Foyer	Afternoon Tea	



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Time	Location	Sessions	Speakers
4:20 PM (40 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	What Happens Now?	Facilitator
		What happens when the fringe becomes the future? What’s the template for inspiring action and forging a path forward? As Nik Gowing asserts: today’s unthinkables are tomorrow’s inevitables. In this session, he will lead an exploration of the actions, impact and courage needed to inspire a growth mindset and shape the future. Speakers from the day will engage directly with the audience in an interactive Q&A session, addressing your thoughts, ideas, and questions on the topics that have emerged. Join us to explore how visionary thinking and courageous leadership can shape the future.	• Nik Gowing Founder & Co-Director Thinking the Unthinkable
			Speakers • Andrew May Co-CEO, Essantis • Sonalie Figueiras Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Green Queen • Cecilia Chang Chief Business Officer, Mission Barns • Ben van Delden Founder & Managing Director Delco Agrifood • Dr Jaclyn Aldenhoven Director, Strategy and Programs (Future Programs) Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
4:55 PM (5 min)	Wentworth Ballroom	Closing Remarks: Food Frontier	Speaker
		Food Frontier will provide a considered recap on the discussions of the day and where the sector can collectively unite to collaborate and drive actionable outcomes in the future.	• David Bucca Founder & CEO, Change Foods Interim Chair, Food Frontier
5:00 PM (30 min)	Level 3 Foyer	Networking Drinks	