

FACING THE FUTURE

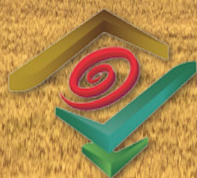
food security and resilient food systems

A NEW FRAMEWORK

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Melbourne Connect

8–9 October 2026



The Royal Societies of Australia

www.scienceaustralia.org.au

FACING THE FUTURE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1 – 8 OCTOBER

NAVIGATING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE – A WICKED PUZZLE

9.00 am **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

9.10 am **Aims of the conference and housekeeping**

9.20 am **Keynote address**

The idea of Australia

Julianne Schultz Griffith University

How we see ourselves and how this might affect food issues; the absence of entrenched human rights.

SESSION 1 – Feeding the future: demographics, food security and community wellbeing

9.50 am **Demographics**

Hari Hara Priya Kannan The Demographic Group

What will Australia look like in coming years and how this might influence what we can do about food issues.

Human population

Jenny Goldie Sustainable Population Australia

The intersection of economic, social and environmental issues, with coverage of ‘the elephant in the room’.

Children and families

Emma Sydenham Social Ventures Australia

Potential strategies to address childhood food insecurity.

Findings from the HILDA longitudinal study

Ujjwal KC Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

Food insecurity affects more than one in six Australians over 14.

Questions and discussions with the panel

11.20 am **Break**

SESSION 2 – Changes in the natural world

11.40 am **Accelerating changes in the natural world and their impacts**

Mark Stafford Smith CSIRO

Land use, landscape and food issues are all affected by global changes: to the atmosphere, biodiversity, landforms, hydrology, the oceans and from pollution and waste.

Compounding climate extremes, agricultural production and food

Elisabeth Vogel University of Melbourne

The importance of considering climate extremes for agricultural predictions and adaptation planning.

Paying to avoid the inevitable? The biosecurity cost on farms and food

Sam Miller NSW Farmers

Returning to first principles to set out the rationale, arguments, and remaining gaps to charting an optimal biosecurity policy.

Questions and discussions with the panel

1.00 pm **Lunch**

SESSION 3 – The great transition: adapting to the challenges of accelerating global changes

2.00 pm **New environmental law**

Euan Ritchie Deakin University and Biodiversity Council

Do the new Federal environment laws deliver the reforms necessary to protect our environment?

What can we learn from a regional and Māori-led approach to food system resilience?

Miriana Stephens Wakatū Incorporation

How Indigenous leadership, knowledge, intergenerational thinking and place-based action can contribute to more resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems: a Māori-led regional food strategy.

Infrastructure deficit

Demus King Minerals Council of Australia

How road and rail networks can connect Northern Australia to create a backbone for mining, industrial, agricultural, defence and community activity across Australia's northern arc.

Our food plate is changing

Jessica Danaher RMIT University

Food and nutrition guidelines, health and the environment.

A uniquely Australian agriculture

Josh Gilbert Aboriginal Co-Chair of Reconciliation NSW and Charles Sturt University

Seeking uniquely Australian farming models that bring all cultures to the table.

Questions and discussions with the panel

4.20 pm **Roundup of issues**

General plenary discussion

The day's issues, with special attention to producers, consumers and international influences and Australia's role in supporting neighbouring countries with food security.

Courtney Quinn University of Tasmania and CSIRO

5.00 pm **End Day 1**

DAY 2 – 9 OCTOBER

NEW FRAMEWORKS – CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSES

9.00 am **Welcome and housekeeping**

9.10 am **Keynote address**

From Food Security to Nutritional Resilience: Nourishing 2080

Dr Anneline Padayachee University of Queensland

SESSION 1 – Resilient food systems and resilient societies

9.40 am **The Drivers Behind Canada's National Food Security Strategy**

Jason Baillargeon Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

What led to the development of the Strategy, the structural challenges it aims to address, and how it is being implemented.

Fair share issues

Michael Haines Basic Income Australia

Fair share issues include the poverty problem and the need for a fair share for all in the whole food chain, including transport and recycling/waste operators, retail and health workers, producers and consumers.

Biodiversity, Water, Food, Health and Climate

Ro McFarlane University of Canberra

The intertwined nature of the drivers and underlying causes of degradation of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate.

Building profitable resilient production, processing, marketing food businesses

Rob McGavin Cobram Estate Olives

Establishing profitable science and quality based food industries.

Questions and discussions with the panel

11.20 am Break

SESSION 2 – Grounding science: land management through a better understanding of the natural environment

11.40 am Reviving land and seacare

Andrew Campbell Triple Helix Consulting and Australian National University

Successful environmentally sound and resilient food production depends on positive action by land holders, managers and workers.

Little gardens

Winnie Siu Griffith Law School, Griffith University

The role of community gardens in maintaining agrobiodiversity and sharing non commercial genetic lines of food adapted to changing climatic conditions.

Biosecurity

Simone Warner Agriculture Victoria and La Trobe University

Biosecurity efforts are critical to underpin agricultural systems to achieve resilient food systems.

Questions and discussions with the panel

1.00 pm Lunch

SESSION 3 – Transition to a future with better food security and optimum resilient food systems

2.00 pm Legal and institutional options

Nelson Quinn The Royal Society of Queensland and Griffith University

Many good ideas will not be able to be implemented successfully without supportive laws and institutions, including for catastrophe management and 'climate justice.'

Land, law and relationships

Mary Graham University of Queensland

A custodian relationship between people and land is the template for successful society and social relations.

Protection of native food sites

Clarence Slockee Jiwah

A biodiversity priority along with rare and endangered species

Feeding Australia Update

Update on the Commonwealth's *Feeding Australia: A National Food Security Strategy*.

Tipping points – challenges and opportunities

Courtney Quinn University of Tasmania and CSIRO

Some tipping points cause irreversible changes. At the same time, there are opportunities through positive tipping points that can help achieve a sustainable transformation.

Questions and discussions with the panel

4.00 pm Interactive session

Reflections on the conference: challenges in developing new paradigms related to the changing world while keeping what works from the past

4.45 pm Conference close