



Positioning the Central Coast as a leader in food innovation through collaborative industry and community partnerships

PROGRAM

Food Futures: Central Coast is hosted by Regional Development Australia Central Coast and Central Coast Industry Connect, in association with the University of Newcastle.

Thursday, 26 April 2018

Program

- 8.45am - 9.00am **Registration**
- 9.00am - 9.10am **Introduction**
Phil Walker, RDA Chair
Welcome to Country: "The Glen Centre"
- 9.10am – 9.25am **Official Launch of the Central Coast Food Innovation Region Initiative and Opening of the Food Futures Forum**
Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal to introduce Taylor Martin MLC, on behalf of The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Water, and Trade and Industry.
- 9.25am - 9:35 am **Overview of the Central Coast Food Innovation Region Initiative**
John Moulard, CEO, RDA CC
- 9.35am - 9.50am **Regional Development and the Role of the University of Newcastle**
Kevin Hall, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle
- 9.50am - 10.00am **Welcome to Mingara and the Importance of Food to the Club Sector.**
Paul Barnett, CEO, Mingara Recreation Club
- 10.00am - 10.30am Morning Tea
- 10.30am - 11.35am **Panel Session**
Facilitated Discussion led by Frank Sammut, Executive Officer, Central Coast Industry Connect
John Murray, Department of Industry and Science
Mirjana Prica, Food Innovation Australia Ltd
Chris Hutton, Mars Food Australia
Louise Cordina, Cordina Farms
Simon Pettinger, Lowes TC
Philip Wright, NSW Department of Primary Industries
Alan Broadfoot, GIC ERFW and NIER, University of Newcastle
- 12.05pm - 12.25pm **Questions from the Audience**
- 12.25pm - 12.30pm **Wrap-up and Close**
John Moulard, CEO, RDA CC

Panelists



John Murray, Department of Industry and Science

John is the Entrepreneurs' Programme Sector Director for Food and Agribusiness. With over 30 years' experience in the manufacturing industry, predominantly fast moving consumer goods, John has experience at General Manager level, in food, beverages, heavy industrial, packaging and pharmaceuticals. John's specific areas of expertise include strategic planning, industrial marketing, supply chain development, technology adoption, organisational change, productivity improvement and business turnaround. John holds a Master of Science and a Master of Business Administration. John brings a wealth of knowledge to the current Innovation Programme.



Mirjana Prica, Food Innovation Australia Ltd

A trained scientist with a doctorate in physical chemistry, Mirjana has a wide-range of national and international experience in research and executive roles working with private enterprise, not-for-profit and research institutions. Now Managing Director of Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL), a not-for-profit organisation established under the Federal Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative, Mirjana previously worked with multi-national organisations including George Weston Foods, Associated British Foods and CSIRO. In her current position, Mirjana is responsible for identifying, developing and leading the strategic vision for the Australian food and agribusiness industry to facilitate sector growth, build capability and foster connections and collaborations between stakeholders.



Chris Hutton, Mars Food Australia

Chris is the Product & Packaging Innovation Manager for some of Australia's favorite dinnertime brands including MasterFoods®, Dolmio®, Kan Tong® and Uncle Ben's® by Mars Food Australia in Berkeley Vale, NSW. Leading a team of eight and working with experts from across the business, Chris innovates the style, format and composition of foods to make them healthier, easier, more affordable and tastier for millions of people every day.



Louise Cordina, Cordina Farms

Cordina Group is one of Australia's oldest privately-owned food businesses and top 100 family owned firms. Now in its fourth generation, Louise Cordina, has led the business through a period of changing consumer priorities and industry consolidation. Joining the business full time in 1996, Louise has been a strong advocate for innovation, agility and finding opportunity by thinking differently in a volatile, competitive marketplace. Today, the business is widely recognised as a leader in innovative fresh food, receiving national awards for products and partnerships.



Simon Pettinger, Lowes TC

Simon Pettinger is the Managing Director of Lowes TC, specialising in micro propagation of high health plants used in food production, forestry, and commercial and ornamental landscaping. Established on the Central Coast in 1995, Lowes TC employees 75 people and operates from its head office on the Central Coast and internationally in India. As Managing Director, Simon oversees the supply of over 3.5 million live plants annually. Simon holds a Masters of Organisational Development and specialises in organisational capabilities, strategy and growth.



Philip Wright, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Dr Philip Wright is the Chief Scientist for the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). In this role Phil is responsible for maintaining science excellence and developing effective science strategy for the Department's significant (\$100 million) portfolio of research. As Chief Scientist he also provides high level advice on technical issues and research policy to the Department and the broader NSW Government and consults widely with academia, industry and government to ensure knowledge and research can be adapted and used to benefit NSW primary industries and the NSW community. Phil holds a number of board and senior committee appointments including being the NSW representative on the Gene Technology Standing Committee and a member of the National Research & Innovation Committee. He is also a member of the Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis which provides advice to the Commonwealth Minister of Health on national Medicinal Cannabis issues.



Alan Broadfoot, Global Impact Cluster for Energy, Resources, Food and Water and the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources, University of Newcastle

Professor Alan Broadfoot's achievements in engineering over the past three decades have been recognised for leading innovation. Formerly Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ampcontrol, Alan is currently the Executive Director of NIER and the Global Impact Cluster for Energy, Resources, Food and Water, at the University of Newcastle. Professor Broadfoot ensures the University's research agenda is aligned to emerging challenges and national priorities associated with the energy, resources, food and water sectors supporting world-class researchers to address rapidly emerging issues of resource sustainability, productivity and competitiveness.

Thank you for your attendance at today's forum. For more information about the Central Coast Food Innovation Region Initiative contact:

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Generously supported by Mingara Recreation Club