



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO HELP FOOD, WINE, AGRIBUSINESS GROW

Global leaders in food, wine and agribusiness will share their strategies and success secrets at the 2019 South Australian Regional Development Conference this month.

The two-day conference will be held May 23 – 24 at Rydges Pit Lane Hotel at the Bend Motorsport Park in Tailem Bend.

The theme of this year's conference is 'innovation along the value chain'. Conference speakers will provide practical advice on the latest productivity and technology tools to help food, wine and agribusiness operators and suppliers improve profits and grow their workforce across the regions.

Conference tickets are available to the public, with businesses, local government and economic development professionals encouraged to attend.

Key speakers and topics at the conference include:

- Joan Marti Estevez, Catalan Agency for Competitiveness (Spain) – *innovating the ways clusters connect*
- Martin Brook, Brookfarm – *adding high value to primary production*
- Richard Macchiesi, VISY – *innovations in packaging*
- Rick Llewellyn, CSIRO – *Overview of virtual fencing technology and the SA CSIRO on-farm trials*
- Rob Seymour, Optus – *Future of technology to support growth in regional SA*
- Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children & Young People – *The future of work for emerging local talent*
- Toby Bekker, Bekkers Wines – *what can agribusiness learn from luxury brands*
- Professor Andrew Lowe, University of Adelaide – *next wave of agriculture technologies*
- William van Canagaren, Bond University of Queensland – *food origins for the future*
- Dr Paul Dalby, University of Adelaide – *artificial intelligence in the food industry*
- Glenn Capuano, .ID the Population Experts – *the importance of information to support business growth*
- Paula Zito, University of Adelaide – *food origins for the future*
- Irini Agolini, FIAL – *Culture in the Food Industry*

The conference is being hosted by Regional Development South Australia, in partnership with the Government of South Australia through Primary Industries and Regions SA.

Economic Development Australia will run an economic development masterclass on day two of the conference.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone, said the conference would help to showcase the state's key economic strength.

"In recognising the state's vibrant food, wine and agribusiness industries, the theme of this year's conference recognises the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit shown by our regions," said Minister Whetstone.

"South Australia's agriculture, food, wine and forestry industries represent our largest exporters and employers and are critical growth sectors for the future. In 2017-18, these industries contributed \$19.7 billion to the state's economy and accounted for 55% of the state's merchandise exports.

"It is important that we support those doing business in our regions and recognise the valuable contribution they make to the South Australian economy."

Regional Development South Australia chairman Rob Kerin said this year's conference would provide unprecedented access to internationally-recognised food, wine and agribusiness experts.

"Attendees will receive invaluable strategic and practical advice to help improve business profits and grow the workforce in our regions," Mr Kerin said.

"After a successful event last year, RDAs across the state collectively decided to hold the conference annually. It's a great way to provide professional development opportunities and showcase the state's venues in the regions.

"The conference represents outstanding value for money with a range of flexible ticketing options available."

For more information about the 2019 South Australian Regional Development Conference visit <https://www.regionaldevelopmentsa.com.au/annual-conference/> or contact RDA Murraylands and Riverland on (08) 8535 7170.

Book your conference tickets here: <http://rdasaconference2019.eventbrite.com.au>

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