



# 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

5 March 2025

Waters Edge Events Portside, Portside Wharf, Brisbane

# Welcome

On behalf of Meat Business Women, I am delighted to invite you to our 2025 National Conference at Watersedge Portside Events in Brisbane, to be held on 5 March 2025.

The Australian meat industry is built on resilience, innovation, and hard work. To secure its future, we must continue driving gender diversity and inclusion at every level - creating opportunities for the next generation of female leaders. This requires fresh thinking, strong networks, and a commitment to championing women at every stage of their career within the meat supply chain.

This year's conference is designed to inspire, connect, and equip you with the tools to thrive. Our program features industry leaders tackling the most pressing challenges and opportunities, from retail and economic insights that will shape 2025 to the power of mentorship and sponsorship, and the strategies needed to drive meaningful gender inclusion in our workplaces. You'll also hear from trailblazing women in leadership who are reshaping the industry and breaking barriers.

Beyond the sessions, this event is about building your network - connecting with like-minded professionals, exchanging insights, and strengthening the community of women and allies who are driving change. Whether you're looking to grow your career, develop leadership skills, or access a supportive network, you'll leave with valuable connections and strategies to supercharge your journey.

A thriving, gender diverse industry is one that embraces talents, contributions and leadership of women. By coming together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive future for the meat industry - one that values gender diversity, leadership, and collaboration.

I look forward to seeing you at this inspiring and empowering event.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SM'.

**Stacey McKenna**

Australian Chair, Meat Business Women



# Program

Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Time *AEST	Session
8:00-9:00am	Registration
9:00am	<b>Welcome</b> Shelly Horton, Conference MC
9:05am	<b>Opening Address</b> Hon Anthony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries
9:15am	<b>Meat Business Women Update</b> Stacey McKenna, Australian Chair, Meat Business Women
9:30am	<b>Retail insights for 2025: A year of opportunity and challenge</b> <b>Craig Woolford</b> will talk through topical issues facing the Australian economy, retailers and the protein value chain. In a year that will be influenced by politics, interest rates and a world of lower price inflation, Craig will step through the challenges and opportunities that retailers and suppliers may experience in 2025.
10:15am	<b>Facilitated Networking Activity</b>
10:30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00am	<b>Mentorship &amp; #ThePowerOfUs: Driving Gender Inclusion</b> Our panelists will explore two key drivers of change: the role of mentorship in advancing careers and the collective responsibility we all share in fostering inclusion. As part of MBW's #ThePowerOfUs campaign, panelists will discuss how mentorship can open doors for career growth, while also highlighting the importance of working together - regardless of gender, age, or background - to drive meaningful progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Georgie Chapman, Partner, HR Legal</li><li>• Mark Heintz, CEO, Turosi Food Solutions Group</li><li>• Professor Paula Brough, Director, Centre for Work, Organisation &amp; Wellbeing, Griffith University</li><li>• Sarah Curran, Group General Manager HR, Thomas Foods International</li></ul>

11:45am	<p><b>Managing Workforce Diversity &amp; Inclusion in the Meat Industry</b></p> <p>Discover how fostering diversity and inclusion can transform the Australian meat industry. <b>Professor Paula Brough</b>, Director of the Centre for Work, Organisation &amp; Wellbeing at Griffith University, will share insights from groundbreaking research on enhancing workforce attraction, engagement, and retention while promoting psychosocial and cultural safety. Gain practical, evidence-based strategies to create inclusive workplaces that reduce turnover and support the wellbeing of a diverse workforce, including First Nations employees.</p>
12:30pm	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
1:15pm	<p><b>Keynote: From the Red Dirt to the Red Carpet - Networking Like a Boss</b></p> <p>From the red dirt of Kingaroy in QLD, to the red carpets of Australia’s biggest events, <b>Shelly Horton</b> has built a career on confidence, credibility, and knowing how to make the right connections. Now, she’s here to share how you can do the same.</p> <p>In this engaging keynote, Shelly will take you behind the scenes of her career journey and give you the tools to network with confidence, communicate with influence, and build the relationships that open doors. Whether you’re leading a team, managing stakeholder relationships, or looking to elevate your career, you’ll walk away with practical strategies to make connections that count and take your next step with confidence.</p>
2:00pm	<p><b>Spotlight on Bonnie Skinner</b></p> <p>At just 31, <b>Bonnie Skinner</b> became CEO of Sheep Producers Australia, the national peak body representing Australia’s 20,000 sheep producers. In this session, Bonnie will share how her passion for horses led her to a career in animal health, biosecurity, policy, and advocacy, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing sheep producers today. She’ll also offer insights and advice for women in leadership, drawing from her own experiences navigating the industry.</p>
2:30pm	<p><b>Psychosocial Health in the Workplace: Legal Responsibilities and Strategies for a Safer, Healthier Workforce</b></p> <p>Psychosocial hazards impact not just workplace safety but also employee wellbeing, productivity, and culture. In this session, <b>Georgie Chapman</b>, Partner at HR Legal, will break down employers’ legal responsibilities while also exploring what psychosocial risks mean for employees in their daily work. Gain practical strategies to create a safer, healthier workplace – whether you’re managing a team or looking to better navigate workplace challenges.</p>
3:00pm	<p><b>Afternoon Tea</b></p>
3:30pm	<p><b>Meat Business Women One to Watch Awards</b></p> <p>Meet our fantastic finalists and the winner of our One to Watch Award!</p>
4:00-5:00pm	<p><b>Networking Drinks</b></p> <p>Grow existing and new connections at our networking function.</p>

# SPEAKERS

## **Hon Anthony (Tony) Perrett, Minister for Primary Industries - QLD Government**

Official Opening Address



Tony Perrett is Queensland's Minister for Primary Industries and has represented Gympie in the Queensland Legislative Assembly since 2015. A grazier, former councillor, and Deputy Mayor, he is a strong advocate for regional communities and the agricultural sector. Re-elected in 2024, Tony remains committed to driving sustainable growth and innovation in Queensland's primary industries.

## **Bonnie Skinner, CEO - Sheep Producers Australia**



Bonnie is the Chief Executive Officer of Sheep Producers Australia. After working in roles in animal health and biosecurity in the private and not-for-profit sectors, Bonnie joined the Sheep Producers Australia team in 2018 and was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2022.

Bonnie has extensive networks across regional Australia and has proven experience establishing productive

relationships with stakeholders, industry partners and government officials. Her collaborative approach, combined with her comprehensive understanding of the industry, positions Bonnie as a key figure in shaping the future of the sheepmeat sector and the broader agricultural landscape in Australia.

## **Craig Woolford, Senior Research Analyst - MST Marquee**



Craig Woolford is the lead consumer sector analyst at MST Marquee and has been covering all aspects of the retail sector in Australia for more than 23 years. He was previously the Head of Research and also the lead consumer analyst at Citigroup for 16 years and before that CommSec. Craig's clients include major superannuation funds that invest in the retail sector and

companies across the retail value chain looking to understand the factors that will impact retail sales and profitability.

## **Georgie Chapman, Partner - HR Legal**



Georgie Chapman is a highly experienced employment and workplace relations and safety lawyer, specialising in both litigious and non-litigious matters. As a Partner at HR Legal, she advises employers across various industries on discrimination, industrial relations, and workplace compliance. Passionate about fostering best-practice workplace cultures, Georgie provides strategic guidance

on mental health in the workplace and family and domestic violence support, helping businesses navigate complex legal landscapes while balancing risk and commercial objectives.

## **Mark Heintz, CEO - Turosi Food Solutions Group**



Bio coming soon!

## **Professor Paula Brough, Director, Centre for Work, Organisation & Wellbeing - Griffith University**

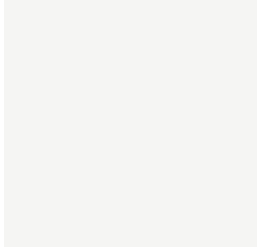


Paula Brough is a Professor of Organisational Psychology and Director of the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. Paula's primary research and teaching areas are occupational stress and coping, employee mental health and wellbeing, work engagement, work-life balance, workplace conflict (bullying, harassment, toxic leadership)

and the psychosocial work environment. Paula assesses how work environments can be improved via job redesign, supportive leadership practices, and enhanced equity to improve employee health, work commitment, and productivity.

# SPEAKERS CONT.

**Sarah Curran, Group General Manager HR - Thomas Foods International**



Bio coming soon!

**Shelly Horton, TV Journalist, MC & Keynote Speaker**



With a dynamic 25-year career in journalism and broadcasting, Shelly Horton has been a familiar face across Australian media. She has held key roles with ABC, Channel Seven, Fairfax, and Entertainment Tonight USA, and is currently a regular contributor on Channel 9's TODAY, TODAY EXTRA, and 9Honey. As the founder of ShellShocked Media, Shelly specialises in media and

speaker training, empowering others to master interviews and keynote presentations. A seasoned speaker herself, she captivates audiences with her motivational and practical insights, making her the perfect MC for this event.

# VENUE



## **Waters Edge Events at Portside**

Level 2 (Above Dendy Cinema), Portside Wharf, 39 Hercules Street, Brisbane, Queensland

## **Getting There & Parking**

Waters Edge is a convenient 15-minute drive from Brisbane Airport. We recommend

parking in the Secure parking complex located directly below the venue (enter **Secure Parking Portside Wharf** into your GPS app). Alternatively, there is complimentary parking located at 97 MacArthur Avenue (Dock A) which is a flat 5-minute walk to the venue.

# ACCOMMODATION

To help make your conference experience as smooth as possible, we've compiled a list of nearby hotels for your convenience. These accommodations are within close proximity to the venue, allowing for an easy and comfortable stay. We encourage you to book early to secure your preferred option.



## **Alcyone Hotel Residences**

35 Hercules Street, Hamilton, Brisbane Queensland

Use code 'WGUEST' for 10% off best flexible rate.

Phone: 07 3505 5200

Email: [reservations@alcyone.com.au](mailto:reservations@alcyone.com.au)

[www.alcyone.com.au](http://www.alcyone.com.au)



## **Link Portside Wharf Apartment Hotel**

47 Hercules Street, Hamilton (Harbour Road or Remora Road intersection entrance via 39 Hercules St Portside Wharf Centre)

Phone: 07 3630 1293

Email: [stay@linkportside.com](mailto:stay@linkportside.com)

[www.linkportside.com](http://www.linkportside.com)

*Accommodation is not included in the conference registration fee. Attendees are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements directly with their chosen hotel. Meat Business Women does not guarantee availability or specific rates and are not responsible for any booking terms, conditions, or issues arising from accommodation arrangements.*

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