



SURAT BASIN COEXISTENCE SYMPOSIUM

Dalby Events Centre
31 JULY 2025



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EVENT FACILITATED BY



Surat Basin Coexistence Symposium Program | 31 July 2025

8.30am	Registration
9.10am	Welcome Address Caitlin Crowley
9.20am	Keynote Address Cathy McGowan, Former Member of Indi and current Chair of AgriFutures
9.50am	Interactive Activity with Cathy McGowan
10.10am	Morning Tea
10.50am	The Agricultural Lens Jo Sheppard, CEO, Queensland Farmers' Federation
10.55am	The Energy Perspective Keld Knudson, Director - Queensland, Australian Energy Producers
11am	Renewable Realities Katie-Anne Mulder, CEO, Queensland Renewable Energy Council
11.05am	Building a Culture of Coexistence Warwick Squire, CEO, Coexistence Queensland
11.10am	Panel Discussion Warwick Squire, Jo Sheppard, Keld Knudson and Katie-Anne Mulder
11.40am	Sharing Ground: Real Stories of Energy & Landholder Insights and lessons learned from working together on the land - the good, the hard and what they've learned
12pm	RELA's Experience in the Coexistence Space Michael Katz, CEO, RELA
12.20pm	Research and Development - Insights into the Future Michael Scobie, Research Engineer, UniSQ
12.40pm	Lunch
1.40pm	Working Together Caitlin McConnel, Australian Farmer & Lawyer
1.50pm	Interactive Conversation - Successes, Setbacks, Next Steps Caitlin Crowley
3.20pm	Closing Statement
3.30pm	Event Close

About the event

This pivotal event aims to bring together energy and agriculture companies, industry and local stakeholders to share their experiences and insights on coexistence in a region renowned for its mature energy and agricultural landscapes.

Purpose

The primary objective of the conference is to highlight the collaborative efforts between landholders and energy companies in our region. Through firsthand experiences and real-world insights, participants will gain insight into the challenges and successes of working together and explore how we can continue to work together to form sustainable, enduring relationships particularly exploring environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements and meeting industry and community expectations.

Thank you for being a part of these vital conversations and contributing to shape the future of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin region. Together, we can harness the potential of the energy landscape while preserving and enhancing our agricultural heritage.

**Scan the QR code to access the
interactive session**



Strong partnerships for a strong future

Together with hundreds of farming families, we are producing essential energy and helping shape a stronger future for local communities.



Hear from Western Downs farmer
Dan Hayllor and others.



Master of Ceremonies



Caitlin Crowley

Freelance Journalist

Caitlin is an experienced journalist and after more than a decade working in and leading television newsrooms, Caitlin has pursued new opportunities in digital publishing, event hosting and freelance journalism.

Caitlin is fascinated by the opportunities and complex challenges facing communities outside Australia's capital cities and how the rapidly changing media landscape can continue to meet the needs of the people whose stories she feels privileged to tell.

Keynote Speaker



Cathy McGowan AO

Former Member of Indi
and current Chair of
AgriFutures

Cathy came to national attention when she won the seat of Indi as an independent in 2013. During her time as a politician Cathy actively worked in Parliament to develop policy around regional development, constitutional change for first nations people and a solution to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers.

Leaving politics, Cathy was appointed Chair of the AgriFutures Australia, a leading agricultural research and development corporation. She has taken a particular interest in the impact on rural and regional communities of the transition to net zero.

Speakers



Jo Sheppard

CEO, Queensland
Farmers' Federation

Formerly an elected councillor for 12 years including Mayor for 4 years with Paroo Shire Council, Jo has a sound understanding of regional and remote Queensland and extensive experience in economic development and advocacy. Other roles have included CEO with Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, and Director – Stakeholder Engagement with University of Southern Queensland. Jo is now CEO at Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF). QFF is Queensland's peak agricultural representative body, working collaboratively with its peak body members to progress issues and challenges facing farmers across the State. Collectively, QFF through its peak body members represent over 13,000 Queensland farmers.



Keld Knudsen

Director - Queensland,
Australian Energy
Producers

Keld is an experienced policy and government relations professional with an in-depth understanding of the upstream petroleum industry, energy markets and related policy issues. Keld has held positions in government, industry and representative associations.



Katie-Anne Mulder

CEO, Queensland
Renewable Energy
Council

Katie-Anne has over 15 years experience in industry development and policy and is the CEO of Queensland Renewable Energy Council, representing large scale renewable energy development across Queensland. Katie-Anne's experience is grounded in representing and advising large scale industries on leading practice regulatory frameworks across the mining and gas industries and now the renewable energy industry. Working at both Federal and State levels of government, Katie-Anne has a deep understanding of policy development and pathways to implement and review.



Warwick Squire

CEO, Coexistence
Queensland

Warwick is an experienced executive with over 20 years experience across mining, resources, energy, agriculture and natural resource management. He has extensive expertise cultivating productive relationships, particularly in the resources and agricultural sectors, throughout rural and regional communities. Currently, Warwick is Chief Executive Officer of Coexistence Queensland, a role which has seen him work extensively with rural landholders, communities, agricultural and resource and energy companies, peak bodies and three tiers of government to achieve positive coexistence outcomes.



Michael Katz

CEO, RELA

As the CEO of RELA since its inception in 2020, Michael has pioneered the development and launch of the world's first renewable energy land marketplace. With 20 years experience as an entrepreneur, academic, and investor, he has collaborated with partners including sovereign wealth funds, universities and the full spectrum of Australian food producers. Michael's expertise lies in fostering deep collaboration and finding win-win outcomes amongst diverse stakeholders.



Michael Scobie

Research Engineer,
UniSQ

Michael is a Lecturer in Agricultural Technology at the University of Southern Queensland, where he leads research in drought resilience and ag tech adoption. As a Senior Research Engineer, he contributes to international water resource initiatives and spearheads the "Changing the Game" project to help grain growers adopt technology through real-world trials. With a multidisciplinary background in engineering and environmental science, Michael is passionate about making ag tech accessible and impactful for farmers navigating an evolving climate.



Caitlin McConnell

Australian Farmer &
Lawyer

Caitlin is recognised as a young leader and top agribusiness professional in Australia. In 2024 she was recognised as one of the most influential lawyers in Australasia aged under 40 who have had an extraordinary impact on the profession or society given her unique experience as a sixth-generation farmer and strategic legal advisor. Until December 2024, she worked at Australia law firm Clayton Utz as a commercial litigator and environmental lawyer and has extensive experience acting as a non-executive director for several not-for-profit organisations in the Australian agricultural sector.

If you have any additional comments or thoughts, please scan the QR code to complete the feedback form.



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make it.



