



Meaty Matters: Cows and Climate

Speakers (in order of appearance)

Cec McConnell

Deputy Director General, Primary Industries Development,
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Cec McConnell leads agricultural research and DPIRD. She was previously Western Australia's Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Cec ran her own consulting company providing business development, planning and natural resource management (NRM) advice and held board director roles, including with Wheatbelt NRM. She has also held senior leadership roles with the Department of Agriculture and Food, including as a regional director based at Northam.

Phil Walley-Stack

Noongar singer-songwriter, performing artist, musician, dancer and author

Phil Walley-Stack has been performing since he was a child and has traditional connections to Whadjuk, Yued, Ballardong and Wardarndi language groups.

Phil studied at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and at the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Academy (NAISDA). From this he has created his unique sound influenced by Jazz, Rock, Hip Hop and his own Culture.

Phil established *Aboriginal Shows and Productions* in 2012 and has been producing his own stage shows around his music. He has performed in the USA, Middle East, Germany, France, China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

In addition to managing and producing events for clients across the corporate, government and non profit sector, Phil has launched two albums "Strong" and "Storytallah", produced and performed in stage shows around his music, co-authored "Rocky and Louie", published by Penguin Australia and designed "Jinda" the first Aboriginal designed luxury sleepwear. He is also presenter and cultural advisor for the popular NITV series Aussie Bush Tales.

An ambassador for arts in Western Australia, Phil was a finalist in the 2017 West Australian of the Year Awards (WAOTYA) for services to the Aboriginal community, and a finalist in the 2018 WAOTYA in the Arts and Culture Category. In 2020 Phil established a not for profit *Indigenous Arts Foundation* to give Aboriginal youth pathways to education, training and career opportunities in the arts.

The Hon. Alannah MacTiernan

Minister for Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry

Since the election to the McGowan State Government in 2017, Minister MacTiernan has held inter alia the Agriculture portfolio. She has focused on rebuilding research and development capability and facilities across the state, strengthening biosecurity response capacity and

promoting farming systems that enhance soil biology, soil carbon and integrate pest management. She has promoted climate resilience and carbon farming.

Prof David R. Montgomery (virtual)

Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington Seattle

David Montgomery is a geomorphologist who looks at the process shaping Earth's surface and how they affect ecological systems—and human societies. He has studied everything from the ways that landslides and glaciers influence the height of mountain ranges, to the way that soils have shaped human civilizations both now and in the past. He has worked in mountain ranges throughout the world, from the Cascades in the Pacific Northwest to the Andes in South America and Tibet and the Himalaya in Central Asia. In addition to his academic work, he has written several popular science books, three of which won the Washington State Book Award.

His most recent book, *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life* focuses on the potential for regenerative farming practice to reshape agriculture. He is an elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and has received many awards throughout his career, including a MacArthur Fellowship and the Vega Medal.

Anne Biklé (virtual)

Author and Biologist

Anne is a science writer who researches and writes about connections between people and the environment through the lens of farming, food, and microbiomes. The topics she focuses on include human and plant microbiome science, cell and molecular biology, soil science, immunology, agronomy, animal science, nutrition, and public health. Her writing has appeared in digital and print magazines, newspapers, and on radio. Her soil-building practices have been featured in independent and documentary films.

Her latest book is *What Your Food Ate: How to Heal the Land and Reclaim Our Health*. Co-authored with David Montgomery, it shares the history and science of farming practices and how they affect soil health, nutrient density in plant and animal foods, and human health.

Dr. Terry McCosker OAM (virtual)

Founding Director, Resource Consulting Services (RCS)

Terry McCosker is an internationally acclaimed teacher and has worked in research, extension and property management in both government and private sectors for almost 55 years.

Terry has published over 40 papers and made several world-first discoveries in the 1980s in the fields of bull fertility, ruminant nutrition and pasture ecology. He co-founded Resource Consulting Services (RCS) over 35 years ago which has set the benchmark for capacity building in rural and regional Australia. He is responsible for the introduction of the GrazingforProfit™ School into Australia which now has over 8,000 graduates and has changed grazing, livestock and business management nationally. Terry has chaired the Australian Beef Expo, has sat on numerous advisory committees and has been nominated for many awards. He is one of the pioneers in carbon farming in Australia and has established the largest, real world soil carbon projects which are about to get credited.

Prof. Graham Gardner

School of Veterinary Sciences, Murdoch University

Graham Gardner's research is predominantly focused on the impact of selection for growth, leanness and muscling within the sheep and cattle industries, looking at aspects of carbohydrate and intermediary metabolism, stress sensitivity, and growth and maturity, as well as the metabolic changes that take place in muscle. Graham is the national leader of the ALMTech project which is focused on developing measurement technologies for determining lean meat yield and eating quality. He has developed an X-ray system for use in determining lamb carcass composition at abattoir chain-speed. Most recently he was on the steering committee for the Dublin Declaration an international collaboration of scientists whose research contributes to the nutrition and health benefits, environmental sustainability, socio-cultural and economic values, as well as for balanced solutions for the future of animal agriculture.

Dr. Brad Ridoutt

Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO

Brad Ridoutt is a Principal Research Scientist with Australia's national science agency – The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). His expertise is in life cycle sustainability assessment in the agriculture and food sectors which is used to address strategic challenges in relation to climate change, water scarcity, land use, sustainable food systems, and sustainable diets. Dr Ridoutt is engaged in a range of international processes relating to the standardization of sustainability assessment and environmental labelling. His research is creating the main evidence base concerning the environmental impacts of dietary habits in Australia.

Prof. Phil Vercoe

School of Agriculture and Environment, The University of Western Australia

Phil Vercoe is an animal scientist. His research interests are in ruminant production systems and finding ways to balance productivity with biodiversity in extensive grazing systems. All of his research is driven by the need for 'Clean, Green and Ethical' livestock production and the importance of optimising the interaction between genotype, environment and management. His research has focused on mitigating methane emissions from sheep and cattle through manipulating the feed base, exploring the antimethanogenic properties of plant secondary compounds in Australian native plants, and genetic selection. He currently leads the 'BeefLinks' programme that, through a strong partnership with industry, aims to drive an integrated and complementary R&D programme for northern WA beef production to achieve profitable, consistent and sustainable beef yields matched to consumer expectations. With his colleagues Dr Jason Emms and Dr Dean Revell, he was awarded the Caring for our Country Landcare Eureka Prize for Sustainable Agriculture (2013) for the Enrich Project.

Mandy Curnow

Climate Resilience Emissions Lead, DPIRD

Mandy Curnow is a DPIRD Senior Development Officer based in Albany where she has been working predominantly in the sheep industry for the last 20 years. Mandy is the program leader for the Agriculture Sector's Emission Reduction Strategy (SERS) and is also the Climate Resilience Taskforce's Emissions Lead taking on driving the department's activities around farm and industry carbon accounting in the agricultural sector, specifically livestock, and assisting producers understand carbon budgeting. She researches how emissions and sequestration activities are allocated and captured in the national emissions accounts for

Western Australia. Mandy manages the Katanning Research Station's strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. She started her career in DPIRD in catchment planning and Landcare and still retains an interest in environmental management. She led a number of projects as part of the *Doing More with Agriculture* program that introduced Farmers Markets, Community Builders, Diversifying Agriculture, and leadership training programs before returning to supporting the sheep industry in reproduction and nutrition R & D.

I-Lyn Loo

Director Regional Development, Wheatbelt Development Commission

I-Lyn Loo is the Regional Development Director of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, a role facilitating regional economic development in the Wheatbelt region. I-Lyn's professional career spans more than 20 years working in government in both Singapore and Western Australia. She has led the development and implementation of diverse policies ranging from climate change science and technology, to biosecurity funding mechanisms and policy design. She was awarded the 2016 Australian Biosecurity Award for her prioritisation of invasive species to maximise the impact of government investments for the WA agriculture sector.

I-Lyn's diverse experience also includes advising the Minister for Agriculture and Food on agriculture and food policy matters, as well as leading the agrifood export team to implement programs that maintained the connection between the export-oriented WA agrifood sector's and global markets, subsequently increasing agrifood exports from WA through the challenges of the pandemic.

I-Lyn has 1st class Honors in Environmental Engineering and Physics, Master in Environmental Management and has a Class 1 Operational Meteorologist Certification from the World Meteorological Organisation. She has recently returned from New Zealand, USA, Netherlands and UK as part of her Churchill Fellowship to investigate the drivers and incentives for regenerative agriculture, focusing on consumer and investor sentiment, supply chain opportunities and innovative financing mechanisms.

