

Media Release

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What will WA's Agricultural Industry look like in 2029?

Leading Australian Futurist Paul Higgins will present the opening address at Outlook 2018 on Friday 23rd November at the Perth Conference and Exhibition Centre. Outlook is WA's premier Agriculture Conference and networking event hosted by the Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAACWA).

"Agriculture in 2029 will be far more data and technology driven, both on the farm with data aided decision making, but also up and down the supply chain with supply of information to increasingly information hungry high margin customers, "says Paul Higgins. "Successful farmers and advisors will be those that harness the power of technology without being driven by it."

Technology, emerging economies and a significant shift in market demands will be the theme for the **AAAC(WA) Outlook Conference** this year.

Chief Financial Officer of the Rural Bank, Will Rayner will speak on Alternative Financing Options for Agriculture. Mr Rayner recently completed a Churchill Fellowship and attended the Global Ag Investing Conference in New York where he looked at the rapidly growing alternative financing sector and how it can help farmers.

"I think we have to take a responsible approach to finding the best capital for our customers. We should be looking to supplement or even replace some of the debt. I do think farms in Australia are too reliant on bank debt and I think that will change," commented Mr Rayner.

Global Analysts from GrainCorp, Elders and Meat and Livestock Australia will provide comprehensive Commodities Outlooks for grains, wool and livestock.

AAAC(WA) President Tim Johnston said "We are also very lucky to hear a presentation from Neil Delroy on the future of fresh food and vertical integration at Outlook." Brothers Neil and Ian Delroy sold their Busselton Avocado Farm, Jasper Farms early this year to a Canadian super fund.

Duel Olympic Gold Medallist and inspirational Australian Businesswoman, Jenn Morris, will close the conference with a presentation on her journey from Olympic Gold, to the Board Room and more recently with the United Nations as the Chair of the WalkFree Foundation to end global slavery.

A full program and registration details for the Outlook 2018 Conference can be found at www.outlook2018.com

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