



BioInputs Australia 2026

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21 – 22 OCTOBER 2026

CROWN PROMENADE MELBOURNE

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Dr Louise Thatcher, *Principal Research Scientist,*
CSIRO Agriculture and Food



Dr Michael Crawford, *CEO,* **Soil CRC**



Stephen Annells, *CEO,* **Fertilizer Australia**



Caecilia Potter, *CEO,* **VensoGrow**



David McKeon, *Head of Sustainable Agriculture,*
Elders



Chris Shafto, *Director of Product Development (AU),*
Loam Bio



Pip Grant, *Executive Director,* **AgriPark**



Nick Blomfield, *Manager,* **Cheyenne Pastoral**



Dr Nirodha Weeraratne, *Postdoctoral Research Fellow*
(Next-Gen Integrated Weed Management), Gulbali
Institute, **Charles Sturt University**



Dr Simon Speirs, *GM - Field Solutions,*
New Edge Microbials



Andrew Doecke, *Global Biological Lead - Innovation and*
Development Manager, **Omnia Specialities**



Dan Cornally, *Category Manager Plant Health Products,*
Corteva



Dr Joss West, *COO,* **Terragen**



Darren Free, *General Manager,* **BioAg**



Grant Kelson, *Managing Director,*
Great Southern Biology



Dr Jessica Rigg, *Natural Capital – Technical Specialist,*
Impact Ag



Sofie De Meyer, *Managing Director & Founder,*
Maldiid



Ashley Zamek, *Head of Biosecurity R&D,*
Hort Innovation

9:00 OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair

9:05 OPENING KEYNOTE

Government Policy and Industry Support

- Australia's biological inputs policy framework
- Government support mechanisms and funding pathways
- Strategic priorities for sustainable agriculture

REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

9:40 Regulator Insight: What's New for Biological Inputs Registration

10:10 PANEL DISCUSSION

Navigating Australia's BioInputs Regulatory Landscape

- The Regulatory Divide: Biocontrol vs. Biostimulants
- Quality Assurance and Building Market Trust
- Industry-government collaboration and Regulatory Reform

Ashley Zamek, *Head of Biosecurity R&D, Hort Innovation*

Moderated by Stephen Annells, *CEO, Fertilizer Australia*

11:00 MORNING BREAK

Innovation Showcase: Exhibitor Demo

RESEARCH INNOVATION & GROWER ADOPTION

11:30 RESEARCH OUTLOOK

CSIRO's Biological Inputs Research Agenda

Dr Louise Thatcher, *Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Agriculture and Food*

12:00 Maximizing Biological ROI: Segregation Strategies for Seed and Fertilizer Applications

Dr David Deery, *Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO/VensoGrow*

12:30 Beyond the Label: Proving Biological Success from Seed to Harvest

- Overcoming the delivery challenge for biologicals
- Tracking biologicals from application to colonisation
- Measuring biological efficacy beyond yield
- Building grower confidence through robust validation systems

Dr Sofie De Meyer, *Managing Director & Founder, Maldiid*

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 SPOTLIGHT SESSION

14:30 From Promise to Proof: Validating CarbonBuilder in Australian Farming

- Multi-year validation journey from controlled studies to commercial deployment, including academic collaborations and independent field trials across Australian conditions
- Grower case studies demonstrating ACCU issuance and quantified carbon outcomes, with co-benefits including soil aggregation, nitrogen retention, water retention, and yield resilience
- Practical insights into pairing microbial innovation with transparent and independent field validation to bridge the gap between promise and proof

Chris Shafto, *Director of Product Development (AU), Loam Bio*

15:00 CASE STUDY | The Cheyenne Pastoral Success Story

Nick Blomfield, *Manager, Cheyenne Pastoral*

15:30 AFTERNOON BREAK

Innovation Showcase: Exhibitor Demo

16:00 Novel Frontiers of Plant BioStimulant R&D

Examining efficacy validation challenges, regulatory testing requirements, and practical integration of biostimulants into Australian farming systems.

Dr Nirodha Weeraratne, *Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Next-Gen Integrated Weed Management), Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University*

16:30 CLOSING PANEL | Advancing Biological Inputs: Research Priorities and Industry Collaboration

Andrew Doecke, *Global Biological Lead- Innovation and Development Manager, Omnia Specialities*

Simon Speirs, *GM- Field Solutions, New Edge Microbials*

Daniel Cornally, *Category manager Plant health products, Corteva*

Moderated By Dr Nirodha Weeraratne, *Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Next-Gen Integrated Weed Management), Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University*

17:10 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:15 Networking Drinks



9:00 OPENING | Opening remarks from the Chair

Pip Grant, *Executive Director, AgriPark,*
Charles Sturt University

9:05 OPENING KEYNOTE

The Economics of BioInputs

Understanding Australia's \$1B+ Biologicals Market Opportunity

9:40 EXECUTIVE PANEL

Industry Perspectives: Where BioInputs Fit in Australia's Agricultural Future

Pip Grant, *Executive Director, AgriPark,*
Charles Sturt University

Dr Michael Crawford, *CEO, Soil CRC*

Moderated by David McKeon, *Head of Sustainable Agriculture,*
Elders

10:30 MORNING BREAK

Innovation Showcase: Exhibitor Demo

COMMERCIAL VIABILITY & MARKET ACCESS

11:00 Terragen's Journey Through Innovation, Quality, and Market Adoption

A candid case study of Terragen's commercialization journey in Australia's biologicals sector, tracing the pathway from R&D breakthroughs to market adoption. The session tackles real-world challenges including compatibility issues, grower skepticism, and quality system development, sharing practical insights into what worked, what didn't, and actionable strategies for successfully bringing biological products to market.

Dr Joss West, *COO, Terragen*

11:30 Great Southern Biology Case Study in Customer Service and Onshore Manufacturing

Grant Kelson, *Managing Director, Great Southern Biology*

12:00 PANEL DISCUSSION

The Commercial Reality of Scaling Biologicals

- Commercial viability criteria: What makes a biological product worth developing, distributing, and adopting?
- Real-world barriers to scaling- from technical challenges to grower adoption hurdles
- Practical pathways for market access: system resilience value, regenerative ag trends, and screening criteria that matter
- Multi-stakeholder perspectives: Manufacturer innovation vs. distributor market realities vs. practitioner on-farm needs

Caecilia Potter, *CEO, VensoGrow*

Darren Free, *General Manager, BioAg*

Dr Jessica Rigg, *Natural Capital – Technical Specialist, Impact Ag*

12:50 Lunch break

INVESTMENT & INDUSTRY GROWTH

14:00 Capital Catalysts: Funding Pathways and Investment Strategies for Biologicals Innovation

- What biological innovations are attracting investment, and how is capital being deployed across discovery, formulation, delivery systems, and integrated solutions in the Australian market?
- Strategies for demonstrating proof-of-concept, field efficacy, regulatory pathways, and commercial viability to secure funding
- Funding requirements and investor expectations (strategic vs. financial) for manufacturing scale-up, regulatory approval, and market penetration, with insights into government support programs and public-private partnerships

14:50 GLOBAL OUTLOOK

2030 Vision: Accelerating Australia's Biologicals Transformation

- Australia's R&D excellence, regulatory strength, and diverse growing conditions position it as a natural biologicals innovation hub, driving technology transformation and global market leadership across APAC
- Strategic export pathways across Southeast Asia, India, and Pacific markets, leveraging climate resilience needs and sustainability mandates through knowledge transfer, technology partnerships, and collaborative innovation
- Bold 2030 targets for market growth and export value creation, with collaborative commitments from industry, research, and government to establish Australia as a global biologicals powerhouse

15:30 Closing remarks from the Chair

15:35 End of Event

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For further information, please contact:

David Espitia, Sponsorship and Exhibition Consultant

Phone: +61 417 408 556

Email: David.Espitia@informa.com



VENUE DETAILS

Crown Promenade Melbourne

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BioInputs Australia 2026

21 – 22 October 2026 | Crown Promenade Melbourne

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Virtual Pass	\$1,695	\$169.50	\$1,864.50	\$300	\$1,995	\$199.50	\$2,194.50
Two Day Conference - NFP, Govt Agency or NGO	\$1,395	\$139.50	\$1,534.50	\$300	\$1,695	\$169.50	\$1,864.50
Virtual Pass - NFP, Govt Agency or NGO	\$1,295	\$129.50	\$1,424.50	\$300	\$1,595	\$159.50	\$1,754.50
Two Day Conference - Startups					\$595	\$59.50	\$654.50

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