

## Strategic Investment Advisory Panels – Chair Biographies

---

### Cath Botta

Cath is committed to soil health, working extensively across Australia as a soil scientist, educator and facilitator with rural and regional communities. She previously lectured for the University of Melbourne for nine years on the areas of soil and water, communications and community consultation; and with the Department of Agriculture, Victoria, worked on the identification of soil issues limiting crop productivity and the development of cropping system solutions. She is currently also the Non-Executive Board Director for North East Water, Deputy Board Chair on Benella Health, and Treasurer of Australian Society of Soil Science.

---

### Bob Granger

Bob is a highly respected board and industry committee chairman in the horticulture sector, with broad experience in executive management, research and development, agri-marketing, advocacy, project management and corporate governance. Among his 20 chair appointments, he has previously held a variety of IAC Chair roles at Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), advised in broader agriculture and government issues for the Sugar Industry Guidance Group, and was Chairman of the Wheat Industry Advisory Taskforce Selection Committee. Following his role as an Associate Commissioner for the Productivity Commission (Drought Review), he was also a member of the Australian Government's Drought Pilot Review Panel. He is currently a Presiding Member for the Grape and Wine Research Development Corporation.

---

### Alison Kelly

Alison has over 13 years of experience in delivering successful national agricultural research, development and extension programs. She is currently the Principal of Alison Kelly Consulting, a national strategic sustainability consultancy, as well as Senior Consultant for Do it on the Roof, a boutique green roofs and walls company. Previously, she was the National Program Manager with the University of Melbourne for two programs on climate change in Australia's primary industries (CCRSPI and PIARN), and was the Portfolio Manager, Natural Resources & Climate, at Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL). Alison has published over ten pieces, including Fundamentals of Green Roof Management & Maintenance (2015) and the 2010 Horticulture Climate Research, Development and Extension Climate Matrix.

---

### Peter O'Brien

Peter brings with him an impressive reputation as a leader in rural research and development, science, new and emerging rural industries, agriculture and natural resource management. He was formerly the Managing Director of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Executive Director of the Bureau of Rural Sciences, and was Chief Scientific Advisor to the Minister for Agriculture and the Ministry for Fisheries and Forestry. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, he was part of the primary decision making body on strategic, policy and operational issues across the Department. He currently works in senior consultancy, specialising in strategy, facilitation and executive development; as well as being the Director of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and Professional Fellow and Director of the Murray-Darling Basin Futures Collaborative Research Network.

---

---

### Claude Gauchat

Claude has extensive industry, governance, strategy and risk management experience across a varied and comprehensive executive career. Claude brings to the chairing role knowledge and experience with specialist skills in strategic planning, corporate governance, public policy development and change management of not-for-profit companies, from a career spanning international and domestic settings. Currently, he acts as an independent member of the Audit Committee of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, founding member of the agribusiness forum AgriMinds, deputy chair of the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Partnership Advisory Council and as a Board director of a not-for-profit public company.

---

### Richard de Vos

An Independent Management Consultant with over 20 years of experience, Richard de Vos is an integral figure in the Australian horticulture industry. As a senior consultant, he specialises in key areas such as strategy, governance, marketing, communications, business planning and government relations. He is the former CEO of both Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) and Milk Marketing NSW Ltd, and was Chairman of the Macadamia Industry Advisory Committee.

---

### Eoin Wallis

Eoin brings an impressive depth of experience, with a variety of senior positions across the horticulture and broader agriculture industries. He was the CEO of BSES Limited for over eleven years, operating in a complex farming system in the tropics and sub-tropics; spent a decade as Executive Director of the Sugar Research & Development Corporation; and directed Plant Health Australia for four years. Eoin has been on the boards of RD&E organisations for more than 20 years, focusing on key areas such as corporate governance, intellectual property, workplace health & safety, and people management.

---

### Michael Worthington

Michael's senior experience in vertically-integrated food and agriculture businesses extends more than 25 years, and encompasses a broad range of enterprises, including production, processing, supply chain logistics, and marketing (for Australia, Asia, UK and US markets). He was the former Managing Partner of AgAlpha and GM of New Business for Timbercorp; and in 2009, became CEO of PMA Australia-New Zealand, the first global affiliate of PMA (Produce Marketing Association). He is currently the Chairman of the Fresh Produce Safety Centre.

---