Sustain Queensland 2025:

A co-hosted summit on Queensland's transition economy and industry decarbonisation

Thursday 21 August 2025
1:30pm for 2-6pm
Customs House, 399 Queen St, Brisbane

Ambition into action

Queensland stands at a pivotal moment in its sustainability journey. As industry and academia unite to advance regional decarbonisation, clean finance, circular innovation and community transitions, we have a unique opportunity to build on this momentum. So, how can we continue to collaborate across sectors to shape a sustainable economic future for Queensland?

Sustain Queensland 2025 brings together changemakers from across sectors to explore these frontiers through dynamic panels, thought leadership dialogues and an afternoon of insight and exchange.

Co-hosted by **UQ Business School** and **Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia** (BCSDA), this event highlights collaboration, credibility and action in building a just, resilient and sustainable Queensland economy.

Why attend?

- *Hear from senior voices across business, government and academia as they map Queensland's path to a net-zero, regionally inclusive economy.*
- *Explore real-world approaches to decarbonisation, circularity and innovation.*
- *Engage in live audience polling and contribute your voice to the discussion.*

PROGRAM

Time	Session	Details
1:30-2pm	**Guest arrival and registration**	The Long Room, Customs House
2-2:15pm	**Program commences** Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Remarks	**Professor Brent Ritchie**, Academic Dean and Head of School, UQ Business School **Andrew Petersen**, CEO, Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia
2:15-2:45pm	**Keynote Address:** A vision for Queensland's sustainable future	**Professor Belinda Wade**, Net Zero Observatory, UQ Business School
2:45-3:30pm	**Transition economy and corporate accountability** *Queensland's transition to a low-carbon future involves complex interplays between policy, capital, industry and community. This panel brings together voices from clean energy finance, business leadership and climate governance to discuss what a resilient and inclusive transition should look like. What are the enabling mechanisms? Who is accountable? How do we embed equity across sectors?*	**Rachel Chambers**, CEO, Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers **Heidi Cooper**, CEO, Business Chamber Queensland **Ian Learmonth**, CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation **Professor Belinda Wade**, Net Zero Observatory, UQ Business School Facilitator: **Andrew Petersen**, CEO, Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia
3:30-4pm **Afternoon tea break**		
4-4:50pm	**Momentum for change: accelerating industry decarbonisation** *This panel explores how industry and academia are advancing practical change through partnership. From regenerative tourism to climate disclosure, from community consent to infrastructure innovation — it highlights real examples of systemic change, cross-sector collaboration and the barriers still to overcome.*	**Professor Sara Dolnicar**, ARC Australian Laureate Fellow and tourism expert, UQ Business School **Aaron Johnstone**, Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate **Scott Losee**, Director, Losee Consulting **Katie-Anne Mulder**, CEO, Queensland Renewable Energy Council Facilitator: **Professor Kath Herbohn**, Co-Lead, Business Sustainability Initiative research hub, UQ Business School
4:50-5pm	**Closing remarks and vote of thanks**	**Professor Brent Ritchie**, Academic Dean and Head of School, UQ Business School **Andrew Petersen**, CEO, Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia
5-6pm **Networking**		

For further details contact:

Professor Brent Ritchie, Academic Dean and Head of School, UQ Business School – bel.events@uq.edu.au

Andrew Petersen, CEO, BCSDA – andrew.petersen@bcsda.org.au

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SUMMIT CO-HOSTS

Professor Brent Ritchie, Academic Dean and Head of School, UQ Business School

Professor Brent Ritchie is Head of School and Academic Dean of Business at UQ Business School. His research focuses on tourism risk management, including organisational responses to crises and tourist risk perception and behaviour. He applies social and organisational psychology to understand risk attitudes and sustainable tourism preferences, particularly in aviation-related carbon offsetting. He has led ARC Discovery and Linkage grants and delivered keynotes at over 12 international conferences.

Professor Ritchie has coordinated research and consultancy projects across Australia, the UK, Vietnam and New Zealand, and has published widely in leading tourism journals. A former editor of the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management, he serves on 6 editorial boards and is affiliated with research centres in Japan and the USA. He joined UQ in 2008 and previously held academic roles in New Zealand and the UK.

Andrew Petersen, CEO, Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia

Andrew Petersen is the Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia (BCSDA), a CEO-led network of over 70 Australian private, public and philanthropic sector organisations advancing the SDGs and climate leadership. Since March 2011, he has directed BCSDA's strategic growth and forged strong global partnerships as the Australian network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the We Mean Business Coalition and Business for Nature.

With more than 25 years' expertise in environmental and planning law, Andrew previously held senior legal advisory and policy roles, founding PwC Sustainability & Climate Change practice in 2000. Andrew also serves on the Board of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation and on advisory boards at the University of Sydney Business School. His government appointed roles span climate, packaging and biodiversity advisory panels, underscoring his influential role in shaping Australia's sustainable development agenda.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Belinda Wade, Net Zero Observatory, UQ Business School

Belinda Wade is an Industry Professor at the UQ Business School with 25 years' experience in sustainability and climate change across the Australian electricity market, higher education and consulting sectors. She works to establish best practices in climate management and understand how companies can align their operations with a carbon constrained future. Major project collaborations include with the Australian Accounting Standards Board examining organisational behaviour in response to mandatory climate reporting; the Future Fuels CRC (hydrogen adoption and biomethane); the Queensland Decarbonisation Hub (sector planning); and, Net Zero Australia (decarbonisation). Belinda has published work in top international journals including *Nature Climate Change*, *Nature Communications* and *Journal of Business Ethics*.

PANELLISTS

Rachel Chambers, CEO, Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers

Rachel Chambers is the CEO of Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers – the state's peak industry body representing Queensland's fruit, vegetable and nut growers. A passionate advocate for growers, her least favourite phrase to hear is, "I'm just a farmer." Farmers are entrepreneurs, logistics experts, scientists, managers, investors, recruiters, marketers and negotiators. Prior to her role as CEO, Rachel was the Mayor of the North Burnett region, an agricultural region rich in citrus, blueberries and cattle.

Heidi Cooper, CEO, Business Chamber Queensland

Heidi Cooper is a leading business executive and CEO of Business Chamber Queensland, where she advocates for the strategic growth and sustainable transformation of Queensland's business environment. In this role, she leads with purpose, driving business success while shaping the state's economic future through policy influence, stakeholder collaboration and strategic reform. Heidi has led major initiatives for Top 20 ASX-listed companies, top-tier law firms and industry bodies across infrastructure, energy, financial services, education and sport. She is a recognised leader in aligning business outcomes with social and environmental impact and advancing sustainable business practices. She brings a global perspective to local leadership, strengthened by participation in the Chambers of Commerce international network and executive programs at Harvard and Princeton Universities.

PANELLISTS

Professor Sara Dolnicar, ARC Australian Laureate Fellow and tourism expert, UQ Business School

Sara Dolnicar is a social scientist and tourism expert at UQ. With degrees in business and psychology, she is best known for her work in improving market segmentation methodology and empirical measures in social science research. She is also an expert in the topic of Airbnb. Currently, Sara is focusing on developing and experimentally testing ways to make consumers behave in more environmentally friendly ways – voluntarily.

Sara has published more than 300 refereed articles. She is the editor-in-chief of *Annals of Tourism Research*, and reviews grant applications for the national funding bodies of more than a dozen countries around the world. She is an elected fellow of numerous professional associations, and the winner of more than 30 research awards.

Professor Kath Herbohn, Co-Lead, Business Sustainability Initiative research hub, UQ Business School

Kathleen Herbohn is a professor (financial accounting) at the UQ Business School. She researches corporate social responsibility, focusing on how public data in debt and equity markets informs stakeholders about corporate performance, as well as shapes corporate behaviour. Kathleen is co-lead of the Business Sustainability Initiative research hub within the Business School, and has published in leading international journals. Kathleen is a member of the Academic Advisory Panel of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and serves on various editorial boards of international journals.

Aaron Johnstone, Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate

Aaron Johnstone was appointed as the first Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate in 2024. He has over 30 years' experience in public policy, industry engagement and advocacy and holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in public administration.

Aaron has developed a strong understanding of supply chains and regional economic opportunities, particularly in energy, manufacturing and resources. He has extensive experience engaging with government, industry and communities, especially in areas such as skills and economic development. As Jobs Advocate, Aaron works to ensure a long-term positive legacy from renewable energy, and ensuring a fair and prosperous energy transition. This includes identifying barriers and opportunities for local supply suppliers and local workers getting involved in renewable energy projects.

Ian Learmonth, CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Ian Learmonth has more than 30 years' experience as a financier and investor, having worked in Australia, Asia and Europe across asset finance, clean energy and major infrastructure projects, as well as pioneering Australian social impact investing. Prior to his appointment as CEO for the CEFC in 2017, he established Social Ventures Australia's Impact Investing business, which included raising venture capital and affordable housing funds as well as launching Australia's first Social Impact Bond in 2013. Previously an Executive Director of Macquarie Group for 12 years, Ian Learmonth has extensive global investment banking experience establishing various Macquarie businesses, notably European renewable energy and carbon credit investing as well as cross-border asset and structured finance and securitisation in Asia and Europe.

Scott Losee, Director, Losee Consulting

With 35 years' experience, Scott focuses on applied sustainability, advice on carbon and energy, and climate adaptation. Scott is the founder and sole director of Losee Consulting, a leading Queensland sustainability consulting practice. Previously, he held senior leadership roles in the private and public sectors, including leading the climate change and sustainability practice in Australia and New Zealand for AECOM.

He has developed and led organisation-wide sustainability and energy management strategies and directed their integration into large and complex infrastructure projects. He develops decision support systems, facilitates workshops and engages stakeholders across organisations. Scott was also a founder of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council and a board member for many years. He continues to work as one of ISC's most experienced verifiers.

Katie-Anne Mulder, CEO, Queensland Renewable Energy Council

Katie-Anne Mulder is the CEO of the Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC), leading advocacy for Queensland's transition to a clean energy future. With over 15 years' experience across energy, infrastructure and regional development, she is recognised for advancing policies that balance environmental sustainability with economic growth. A passionate advocate for regional Queensland, Katie-Anne works to ensure renewable investment delivers jobs, strengthens supply chains and benefits local communities. She champions leading-practice regulatory frameworks and has led reforms to streamline planning and approvals, foster strong industry–government partnerships and position Queensland as a national leader in renewable integration.