

# Bundaberg & Wide Bay Bioeconomy Conference

2 – 3 November

## Conference pack

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Presented in partnership by:



## Presenters



### Conference MC

#### Trish Mears

Trish is Community Engagement Adviser at Bundaberg Regional Council and sits on a number of boards and committees. Trish's entire career has been in communications, marketing and management, having been the long-time manager of both local radio station networks in Bundaberg, Manager of Marketing, Communications and Events at Best Practice Software, as well as setting up the Communications Department at Bundaberg Regional Council in 2008. She assists many and varied organisations with fundraising and being the Master of Ceremony for events.



### Keynote speakers

#### Ramon Mountfort Managing Director

##### LEAF RESOURCES

Ray Mountfort developed the idea to sustainably manufacture turpentine and rosin, after working for a New Zealand based company (Eka Chemicals now Lawters) that extracts rosin and terpenes from the by-products of the Kraft pulping process.

Noticing the demand for renewable pine chemicals increasing in everyday products and the shortage of supply, Ray identified an opportunity to improve the manufacturing process to produce higher volumes, in a cleaner and more environmentally friendly way with no foreign residues in the end product.

In July 2016 Ray and his family moved to Gympie in Queensland, Australia. His company, Essential Queensland, commissioned Australia's first natural pine chemical extraction plant in Bundaberg.

Leaf Resources has a strong ESG focus. The trees are sourced from FSC certified forests, which means for every tree used another is planted. They have also developed a technology to extract pine chemicals from previously unutilised stumps which further encourages reforestation.

As the first pine chemical manufacturer in the country, Ray would like to share his experience to help develop the Australian sustainable bioeconomy, from ideas to action.



#### Dr Azharul Karim Associate Professor

##### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING – QUT

Dr Azharul Karim is currently working as an Associate Professor at Queensland University of Technology. His primary research is directed towards solving acute food processing and preservation problems using advanced engineering methodologies.

His high-level achievements in both fundamental and applied research have established him as an emerging research leader in this field. He has published 213 refereed research publications including 118 peer-reviewed journals, 5 books, and 4 patents. He is editor/board member of six reputed journals and supervisor of 26 past and current PhD students.

He has been keynote or distinguished speaker at scores of international conferences and invited keynote speaker in seminars in many reputed universities worldwide. He has won multiple international awards for his outstanding contributions. He is the recipient of numerous national and international competitive grants amounting \$3.2 million.

His current research areas are food drying, Nano fluid solar thermal storage, concentrating PV-thermal collector, and Lean Manufacturing.



## Speakers

### Professor Ian Mackinnon Director

#### CENTRE FOR CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES, QUT

Prof. Mackinnon obtained his BSc (Hons) and PhD degrees at James Cook University, Australia and is the Founder and former Executive Director of the Institute for Future Environments at QUT. Prior to his roles at QUT, Ian was Executive Director at the Australian Research Council responsible for driving collaboration between universities and industry. Prof Mackinnon is a member of the Ministerial Energy Council and of the Hydrogen Task Force for the Queensland Government. He has held appointments at Arizona State University, NASA Johnson Space Centre, The University of New Mexico in the USA and at The University of Queensland. Prof Mackinnon has served in advisory roles for five CRCs and helped establish CRCs in the minerals and energy sectors. Prof Mackinnon is co-lead in the Hydrogen Exports and Value Chains R&D programme for the Future Energy Exports CRC.



### Simon Shaw Managing Director

#### THE HYDROGEN COLLECTIVE (H2C)

Simon Shaw is the Managing Director of 'The Hydrogen Collective' (H2C) and has a passion for renewable energy projects that support community and economic development. As a business, H2C assess capability and enable projects that integrate renewable energy into regions and businesses with a focus on green hydrogen. The basis of these projects is the enablement of producing and using renewable energy within a local area or region to retain energy capital.

H2C are building local renewable energy projects in Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and New Zealand as a result of the economic, environmental and commercial impact to local businesses and Councils. It is these projects that assist in the development of local bioeconomies.



### Philip Sohn Executive VP, Business Development

#### RECARBON, INC.

Philip is the Australia-based EVP of Business Development for ReCarbon, Inc. which is headquartered in Santa Clara, California, USA. He has spent the last 8 years building local and global stakeholder relationships as the company moved through its TRL (Technology Readiness Level) development. With successful pilot and demonstration plants established, Philip has spent the last two years helping deploy ReCarbon's technology in commercial projects; both exciting biohydrogen (B2H2) projects, and important carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) projects which together, will assist in the decarbonisation of key industries, by the utilisation of renewable and waste greenhouse gases. Prior to ReCarbon, Philip has had an eclectic business development career, both as a media and marketing entrepreneur, and as an equity derivatives pioneer for global investment banks. He has spent most of his life in Hong Kong, Australia, US and Canada.



### Ben Artup Executive Director, Strategic Projects & Economic Development

#### BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Ben Artup is Executive Director Strategic Projects and Economic Development at Bundaberg Regional Council. He's a qualified economist holding an Honours degree in economics from Western Sydney University. His early career involved roles teaching economics and as senior researcher focused on the macro economy, regional innovation and urban economics. He has held roles in local economic development and corporate advisory. Before joining Bundaberg Regional Council he was a Director with Deloitte Access Economics where he consulted to some of Australia's largest corporations and institutions. Ben now lives in Bundaberg and is interested in building Australia's best regional community including a focus on sustainability.



## Heidi Breen Chief Executive Officer

### H2Q

Heidi has over 10 years energy industry experience across network, energy retail and wholesale markets and energy services. Heidi most recently worked for Yurika, leading the business Customer Experience Marketing and acceleration team with involvement in studies for Solar PPA's, Microgrids, batteries and hybrid energy systems. In Yurika, her leadership in complex solution selling saw her working with customers to solve their energy challenges, using Renewables, data - metering and visualisation, and empowering energy pro-sumers through involvement in Yurika's Virtual Power Plant.

Today, Heidi wears many hats. She is CEO of H2Q, Queensland's Hydrogen Industry Cluster based in SEQ, and an associate of Energy Market Matters Australia. Heidi consults to business clients and energy companies on all manner of energy transition matters from procurement and optimisation, technology adoption - solar and batteries, virtual power plants and decarbonisation. Originally from Newcastle NSW, Heidi now resides on the Sunshine Coast with her husband Phillip, 3 year old daughter Poppy and puppy dog Willow.



## Dr John Feenan Commercial Director

### HYZON MOTORS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

John is the Commercial Director for Hyzon Motors Australia, based in Sydney, Australia. John holds a BSc(Hons) degree from Sydney University, an MSc from Imperial College, London and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment. In 2003 he completed a PhD in Innovation Management from the University of Western Australia and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

John has been in commercial management and director roles for over twenty-five years, where he has held senior leadership roles within the renewable energy, oil & gas and mining industries.

John is passionate about assisting teams to achieve successful commercial and project outcomes. His skills in the energy and resources industries are well positioned to assist businesses transitioning into an increasingly decarbonised and environmentally sensitive society.



## Fiona Waterhouse Chief Executive Officer

### UTILITAS GROUP

A production engineer by trade, Fiona Waterhouse founded bioenergy developer Utilitas Group in 2010 to bring together the most capable and motivated people on the planet to unleash the power of biogas to decarbonise industry, support energy networks and energise communities.

Utilitas Group is Australia's leading bioHub, circular economy industrial park originator and a pioneer of the green gas to gas grid infrastructure market now rapidly unlocking in Australia.

Fiona's passion for regional communities, farming and food production was fuelled, doing piggery, poultry, dairy and goat "squad" at school in Sydney in the early 1980s.

She is a Non-Executive Director of Local Government Owned Regional Water Utility, Unitywater, was Director Strategic Policy in the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency between 2000-2003 and holds manufacturing, environmental and business management degrees from UTS, QUT and Macquarie University.



## Rohan Orford Grower Technical Manager

### MACADAMIAS AUSTRALIA

Rohan works for Macadamias Australia as a Grower Technical Manager fostering sustainable innovation and sharing new insights and ideas to benefit our growers. Rohan has previously worked as a technical advisor for a South African macadamia processing cooperative, Mayo Macs.

During the four years with them, he was responsible for enhancing the performance and sustainability of 150 growers representing about 6000 ha of planted trees. He especially enjoyed sharing new insights derived from modelling various facets of the industry, such as simulating farm budget and pricing scenarios and using a yield projection model to benchmark growers.

Rohan has a special interest in the agroecological sphere of agriculture, having completed his PhD in modelling water use in sustainable dryland agroecological systems. This was in collaboration with the University of Hohenheim in Germany and the University of Pretoria in South Africa.



## Stuart Parry Director

### SWORD & STONE

Stuart Parry is an internationally experienced executive, lecturer and Chartered Accountant who has a depth of experience across a wide range of public sector and commercial areas including finance, procurement, risk management and strategy.

He has worked as an executive across funds management, financial management and financial accounting in Australia, the US and UK. Prior to establishing his own consultancy Stuart worked as a Chartered Accountant with leading global firms including, Ernst & Young, Prudential (UK) Wilhelmsen Investments and Brookfield Asset Management.

As an experienced member of international company group audit and risk committees, Stuart has a solid understanding of international finance and accounting issues. He has managed virtual teams focusing on strategic finance and accounting issues for major listed companies in Europe and North America.

Stuart holds a Master of Commerce from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Economics) from the University of Queensland.



## Peter Morris Chief Executive Officer

### SWORD & STONE

Peter has extensive professional experience in senior corporate office and operational roles in multinational companies (Enron Europe, Conoco, BHP Billiton) and government and public entities (Queensland Electricity Commission, Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation) within the energy and mining sectors. His areas of expertise include marketing and trading, customer relationship and market development, contract negotiation, operations and project management, as well as integration of companies, new businesses and strategies.

After working exclusively in Australian electricity markets during his early career, he relocated overseas to work in the UK, Netherlands, USA and Singapore over a 12-year period. The business areas were UK and European Power and Gas energy markets; uranium markets in North America and Europe; and worldwide iron ore, coking and steaming coal markets.

Peter holds a BEng (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and was awarded a PhD from Queensland University of Technology through research investigating successful energy peak demand reduction in a community of 2000 people from a technical, economic and social perspective. He continued his academic research at the University of Queensland in areas of climate change policy and the integration of environmental, economic, and social outcomes.



## Dr Christine Williams Chair

### LIFE SCIENCES QUEENSLAND LIMITED

Christine is currently Chair of the Board of Life Sciences Queensland Limited. She took on this role in 2020, having left the Queensland public service in 2018 after 22 years in a number of very different senior positions. Her final role in the Queensland public service was as Queensland Chief Scientist where she was accountable for science policy and providing strategic guidance across a range of government departments. In her most recent government roles, Christine worked in close partnership with other government agencies, universities, other research groups and industry, which she continues to do in her current position. Her firm belief is that much more can be achieved through working in collaboration than through working alone.

She is passionate about the role science can play in improving lives here and abroad; the role citizen scientists can play in collecting information; and the key role that women have in achieving better outcomes in STEM and business. Prior to joining the Queensland Government, Christine was an academic at Queensland University of Technology and The University of Queensland where she was responsible for teaching statistics and econometrics.

She is an economist, with a Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Queensland and a Master of Philosophy from Oxford University. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland, Chair of the Advisory Committee for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems, immediate past Chair of the Queensland Chapter of the Women in Economics Network, and Patron of the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Citizen Science Association.



## Dr Clive Keenan Managing Director

### WIDE BAY PACIFIC PTY LTD

Clive is Managing Director, Wide Bay Pacific Pty Ltd, which has current seaweed aquaculture projects in the Solomon Islands as well as in Bundaberg at the Utilitas BioHub.

Wide Bay Pacific has developed a number of partnerships and projects which will establish the Wide Bay as a focus of activities in the Oceania region for farming, processing and production of a range of algae derived products.

Clive is an experienced Principal Aquaculture Scientist working for DAF Qld for 14 years, and authored 50 publications on a wide variety of topics. He has worked in the aquaculture industry for the past 21 years, including serving as Director, Aquaculture Development for Phillips Foods Inc (USA) working in the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as a prawn farm Manager and Aquaculture Development Consultant in Bundaberg.



## Jack Milbank Director

### NOVUM LIFESCIENCES - BIOFILM

Jack has worked in Applied Science across Agriculture, IT, Beverages, Hospitality, Animal Genetics, Synthetic Biology and wholesale distribution for over 20 years. Based in Bargara, Jack is involved, to varying degrees in a network of companies including Hortus, Biofilm, Ballistic, Hartwood, AgPro and Novusyn across Australia, Singapore, Japan, USA, and Southern Africa.

Jack is a passionate triathlete, Tuli cattle producer, beer fan and father of 3 beautiful daughters. From manufacturing Biotic Hydro Mulch to Gluten removal enzymes or Bio-insecticides for nematode control in sweet potatoes, biology presents some incredible options for better management of difficult problems.

Jack sees the Bundaberg bio-economy as a great hub for the development of naturally innovative solutions for agriculture, but sees a need for more economically viable, modular and collaborative pilot projects to be established with better access to seed capital for the regions businesses to compete on a global stage.



## Cameron McKenzie Chief Executive Officer

### ASPIRE

With decades of experience in the construction industry, Cameron has a deep understanding of the manufacturing and engineering sectors. With that foundational knowledge, Cameron is now the CEO of ASPIRE—an online marketplace for business waste exchange. His strengths can be found in commercialisation of impactful solutions, project and risk management and circular economy. Along with extensive industry experience, Cameron has acquired 3 Master's degrees in Construction Management, Entrepreneurship and Innovation and an MBA. He was the winner of the Fillion Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence when studying in Switzerland and also was granted the Circular Economy Award for winning the Australian Technologies Competition in 2019.

Cameron is passionate about creating solutions for a sustainable future, with a focus on circular procurement, clean tech and reducing the waste in the construction and manufacturing industries.



## Nathan Freeman

### Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Projects

#### GREENSILL FARMING

Nathan Freeman is Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Projects at Greensill Farming which includes Green Solutions Wide Bay as part of his portfolio.

Greensill Farming Group are leading the way in environmental and sustainable farming practices as one of the region's largest growers of sugarcane and sweet potatoes. From humble beginnings, the Greensill family have built a legacy spanning generations that continues to develop, research and invest in agriculture.

Nathan's previous roles include Consultant Town Planner with InsiteSJC for 16 years prior to joining Greensill Farming in 2020. Nathan is also President of the Bundaberg Branch of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, board member for a number of not-for-profit organisations in the Wide Bay-Burnett region, Registered Planner with the Planning Institute of Australia and auxiliary firefighter with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services at the Bundaberg Station.



## Paul Woosley Managing Director

### ORECO GROUP

Paul Woosley's Oresco Group is Australia's largest manufacturer of sugar cane mulches. The company provides sugar farmers with a complete service for what was an agricultural waste product and makes organic garden, landscape and horticulture products.

Woosley started the business on the Sunshine Coast when complaints about dirty ash from cane fires prompted an idea of re-purposing cane trash. Oresco Group now operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Childers. The plant includes a composting facility, with an annual capacity of more than 100,000 cubic metres of compost, and a fully automated packing facility, with an annual capacity of more than 10,000,000 loose fill bags and 5,000,000 compressed bales of mulch products.

Paul Woosley's Oresco Group won EY's Entrepreneur of the Year program Northern Queensland in 2015, and two years later, Woosley's Oresco Group won the Westpac Businesses of Tomorrow program.

# Agenda

## DAY ONE: 2 November 2021 – Energy theme

8am Registration opens

8.30am Welcome to Country

8.45am Official opening – Mayor Jack Dempsey

### Hydrogen focus

9am Queensland's clean energy transition: keeping up with innovation  
PROF IAN MACKINNON, QUT

9.20am Integrating Renewable Energy into the Energy Profile of Local Businesses and Regions  
SIMON SHAW, THE HYDROGEN COLLECTIVE

9.35am Repeatable & Scalable: Bio-Hydrogen Demand Generation in the Bundaberg Wide Bay-Burnett Region PHILIP SOHN, RECARBON INC.

9.50am Bundaberg Hydrogen Powered Garbage Truck Project  
BEN ARTUP, BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL

10.05am H2Q and working groups update HEIDI BREEN, H2Q

10.20am Hydrogen Mobility Solutions DR JOHN FEENAN, HYZON

10.35am Morning tea break

11.25am **Keynote: Engineering Solutions and Valorisation of Agricultural Waste in Australia**  
DR AZHARUL KARIM, QUT

### Industry Showcase – Waste and Energy

11.55am Bundaberg bioHub Update FIONA WATERHOUSE, UTILITAS GROUP

12.10pm Macadamias Australia: Our Emerging Bioeconomy  
ROHAN ORFORD, MACADAMIAS AUSTRALIA

12.25pm Building Ethical and Sustainable Investments STUART PARRY, SWORD AND STONE

12.45pm Virtual Power Plants and sharing of energy resources in a regional setting  
HEIDI BREEN, H2Q

1pm **Panel session/Q&A – facilitated by Ben Artup**

- Fiona Waterhouse – Utilitas Group
- Rohan Orford – Macadamias Australia
- Peter Morris – Sword & Stone
- Heidi Breen – H2Q

1.20pm Trade display and Melbourne Cup Luncheon

2.45pm Board bus for site visit to Bundaberg bioHub

3pm Bundaberg BioHub site visit

4.30pm Board bus back to Multiplex

4.45pm Arrive back at Multiplex – End of day one of conference



## DAY TWO: 3 November 2021 – By-product theme

7am H2Q Breakfast – Burnett Riverside: Quay Room

9am Registration opens for Conference

9.30am **Keynote: The challenges of starting a bioeconomy manufacturing business**  
RAMON MOUNTFORT, LEAF RESOURCES

### Agribusiness focus

10.05am Innovation and the bioeconomy DR CHRISTINE WILLIAMS, LIFE SCIENCES QLD

10.20am Role of Aquaculture in the Circular Carbon Economy DR CLIVE KEENAN, WIDE BAY PACIFIC

10.35am Synthetic Biology, the naturally smart ingredient: From Bug to Functional Enzyme  
JACK MILBANK, NOVUM LIFESCIENCES/BIOFILM

10.50am Morning tea break

### Industry Showcase – By-products

11.30am Connecting business to creative circular economy solutions  
CAMERON MCKENZIE, ASPIRE

11.45am Giving Green Waste a New Life NATHAN FREEMAN, GREEN SOLUTIONS WIDE BAY

12 noon Entrepreneurship in the sustainable bioeconomy PAUL WOOSLEY, ORECO GROUP

12.15pm Panel session/Q&A – facilitated by Ben Artup  
• Ramon Mountfort – Leaf Resources  
• Cameron McKenzie – ASPIRE  
• Nathan Freeman – Green Solutions Wide Bay  
• Paul Woosley – Oreco Group

12.30pm Short break, board bus for site visits (have lunch on bus)

12.40pm Board bus for site visit to Green Solutions Wide Bay

1pm Green Solutions Wide Bay site visit

1.30pm Board bus for site visit to Oreco Group

2.20pm Oreco Group site visit

3.45pm Board bus back to Multiplex

5pm Arrive back at Multiplex – End of day two of conference



The banner features the Milbi Festival logo in white and green on a dark blue background. The logo consists of the word 'Milbi' in a large, rounded, white font, with 'FESTIVAL' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font inside a green rounded rectangle below it. To the left of the logo is a stylized graphic of blue and white circular patterns. To the right is the Bundaberg Regional Council logo, which includes a stylized sun and the text 'BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL'. Below the council logo is a white box with the text 'IT'S LIVE! in Queensland'. At the bottom left, the dates '29 OCT – 7 NOV' and the website 'milbifestival.com.au' are displayed in white. The bottom right corner features a cluster of blue and white circles of varying sizes.

29 OCT – 7 NOV  
milbifestival.com.au

BUNDABERG  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

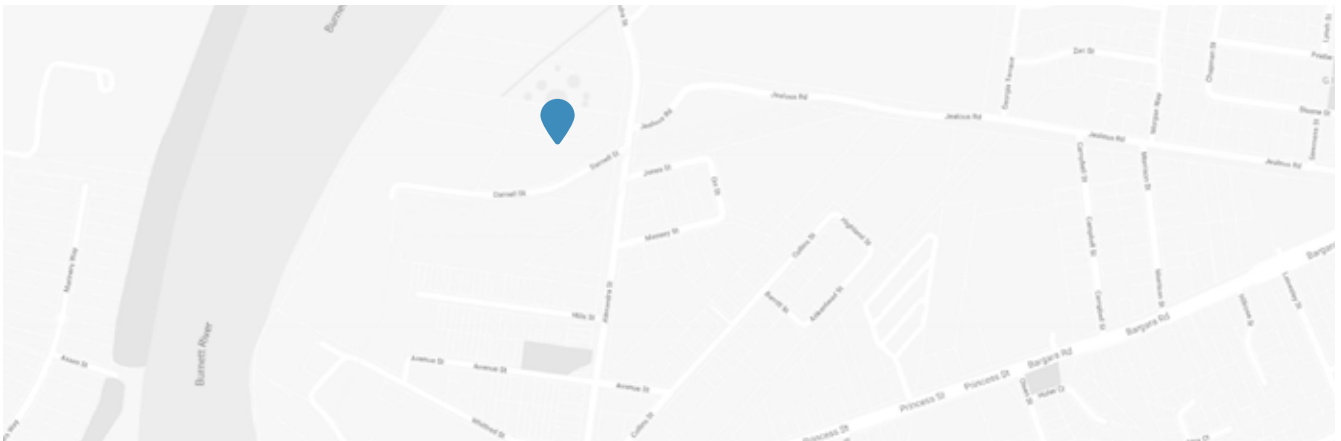
IT'S LIVE!  
in Queensland

## Site visits

Attendees who have indicated they will be attending site visits via coach/bus will be allocated a seat. Site visits will be occurring at the following locations over the two days:

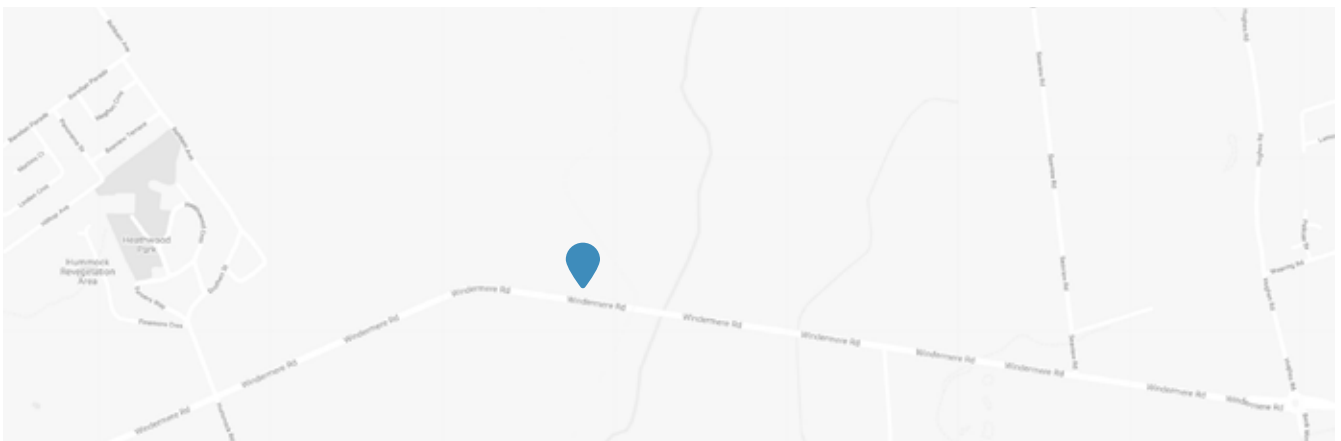
**Bundaberg bioHub** | [utilitas.com.au/news/bundaberg-biohub](https://www.utilitas.com.au/news/bundaberg-biohub)

**55 ALEXANDRA STREET, BUNDABERG**



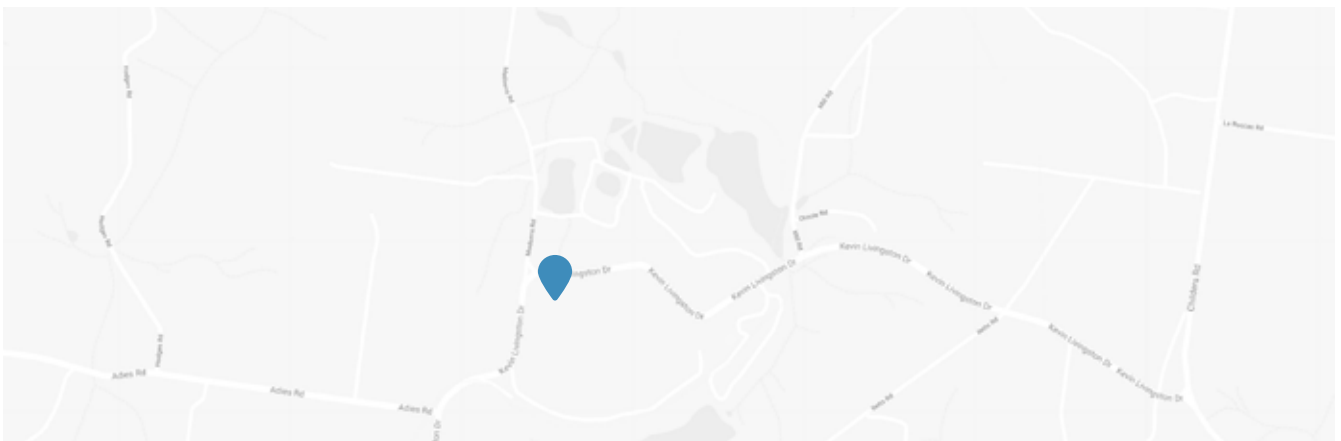
**Green Solutions Wide Bay** | [greensolutionswidebay.com.au](https://www.greensolutionswidebay.com.au)

**417 WINDERMERE ROAD, QUNABA**



**Oreco Group** | [orecogroup.com.au](https://www.orecogroup.com.au)

**245 KEVIN LIVINGSTON DRIVE, ISIS CENTRAL**



As the site visits occur outside and in industrial environments, we ask all attendees joining these to please wear closed in shoes, bring a hat and wear/bring long sleeved clothing if possible. Further site visit information will be provided in the event reminder email for registered attendees a few days prior to the conference.

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