

# FOOD PROCESSOR SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR

A seminar to help you “future –proof” your company  
Directed at CEOs, owner managers and senior staff

This seminar brings together some of Australia’s leading experts in the field of business sustainability – to help food, wine and beverage company owners and managers compose a holistic strategy with practical outcomes and an early contribution to your bottom line.

We will hear about what works and what doesn’t, the tools and skills you need to make it happen. A range of leading training organisations, industry associations, government grants organisations, lean manufacturing and sustainability consultants will be on hand.

**CARDINIA, VICTORIA**

**DATE:** **Wednesday 25 August 2010**

**PLACE:** Lakeview Room  
Cardinia Cultural Centre  
Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham VIC

## Who will be there

### Speakers include

**WENDY ERHART** who, together with husband Graham, took Withcott Seedlings from a backyard operation into a million dollar seedling business, and used the country's water crisis as a catalyst for further innovation and success. Wendy was the Australian Business Woman of the Year in 2005.

**MARK NAPPER** is the CEO of Windsor Farm Foods Group Limited a wholly owned Australian company manufacturing in western Sydney and Cowra, New South Wales. Employing around 120 people Windsor manufactures a range of products including a wide range of vegetable products, dried herbs & spices, bakers fillings and nutritional snacks.

**IAN YOUNG** is the co-ordinator of the successful 'Lean to Green' program, supported by Sustainability Victoria, which engages Victorian manufacturers in the business of sustainability, and is now drawing international attention.

## What you will get

Attending this free breakfast seminar means getting answers to cope with:

- > Sharp rises in energy costs;
- > Reduced access to an affordable water supply;
- > More regulation demanded by a carbon constrained economy;
- > More demanding and discerning 'green consumers';
- > Gaps in the right skills to deal with new challenges.

Many key indicators suggest smaller food businesses will have trouble continuing operations in Australia if they do not prepare themselves for these challenges now. This has major implications for regional employment, as over half of Australia's food companies are regionally based.

This seminar will provide you with valuable insights including:

- > a clear view of the "big picture" threats and opportunities
- > expertise and advice to save costs, increase profits and find funding support
- > new skills elements with the ways and means to get sustained cultural change to keep it happening

You will be able to explore through conversation:

- > Cost savings at an early stage;
- > Strategies to prepare for change and engage your workforce;
- > Ways to minimize the carbon impact / footprint of your supply chain;
- > Funding options to support a sustainable business.

## Content

This seminar is specifically designed to complement and not duplicate the many other initiatives underway to support manufacturing sustainability. The object is to engage with CEOs and owners to assist them recognise, prepare, skill up and initiate the necessary changes so that they and their staff will be well-equipped to meet the challenges ahead. Among other things, we will focus on workforce development aspects of the challenge, particularly the need for cultural change, which if not addressed adequately can often stymie the sustained success of initiatives in this field. This will be backed up by a "green" skill needs analysis and formation of communities of practice where appropriate (supported by AgriFood).

You will be briefed on a national exemplar project being conducted for AgriFood by Energetics Ltd. The companies involved are Murray Goulburn; Nestle Australia and the food processors Windsor Farm Foods (NSW) and Patties Foods (Victoria).

## TO REGISTER CONTACT

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# Agenda

Facilitator: Mr Stephan Wellink and Ms Reetica Rekhy

- 7:00am Breakfast served
- 7:15 am Key note speaker  
Introduction/scene setting : Stephan Wellink / Reetica Rekhy facilitators  
  
Key note address : Wendy Erhart
- 7:45am Welcome  
Welcome participants  
Cr Graeme Legge  
Arthur Blewitt CEO Agrifood Skills Australia
- 8.00 am Why this seminar?  
Overview of food processing sector environment – Michael Claessens GM  
Agrifood Skills Australia
- 8:05am Setting the Scene  
The context, framework and process - Stephan Wellink / Reetica Rekhy
- 8:15am Presentations and Panel Session  
Ian Young, Dr Roger Holmes-Brown and  
Mark Napper will present perspectives on “sustaining sustainability” for  
businesses. Following the presentations, the speakers will be joined by  
Wendy Erhart for a panel discussion.
- 9.15 am Carbon Proof Project  
Phil Shorten from Energetics: brief overview of an exemplar project.
- 9:30am Open Forum  
Engagement with audience to discuss and capture issues
- 10:05am Close  
Communities of Practice formation
- 10.15 am Networking

## Case Study: **Geofabrics**

**Dr Roger Holmes-Brown** of Geofabrics Australasia Pty. Ltd. will outline that company’s impressive sustainability journey; and how it relates to food processors in regional Australia. Geofabrics is a private company, based in Albury, that manufactures and distributes geosynthetic products and industrial/technical non-woven fabrics.



**AgriFood Skills Australia** (formerly the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council) is an independent not-for-profit company with a fully industry representative Board. It is one of eleven Industry Skills Councils established by the Australian Government to actively support the development, implementation and continuous improvement of quality training and workforce products and services, including training packages.

## SECTORS

### Food processing

beverages (including wine)  
pharmaceuticals

### Rural and related industries

rural production (agriculture)  
amenity horticulture  
conservation and land management  
animal care and management

### Meat

abattoirs  
small goods  
meat processing  
meat retailing

### Seafood

aquaculture  
fishing operations  
seafood processing  
fishing compliance  
fishing charter operations

### Racing

thoroughbred  
harness  
greyhound

## WHAT WE DO

AgriFood is resourced principally by the Australian Government to:

- > use industry intelligence to advise business and government on workforce development and skill needs Australia-wide
- > actively support the development and implementation of quality skills training arrangements and related services
- > provide independent skills and training advice to businesses, including matching identified skills needs with appropriate training solutions
- > promote the benefits of skills development and training to industry enterprises, employers and employees.

In undertaking these roles AgriFood draws on widespread industry networks and active stakeholder engagement.

PHOTO: CEO Arthur Blewitt addresses the National Press Club at the launch of the Environmental Scan.