



Australian Government
**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2023/045

Mr Andrew Willcox MP, Member for Dawson – review of
parliamentarian, family and staff travel

1 April to 30 June 2023

Contents

Executive summary	3
Assurance Review Findings	3
Scope and Purpose	3
Engagement with Mr Willcox	3
Audit and Assurance function	3
IPEA's statutory audit function	3
Legislative framework	4
Assurance Review methodology	4
Background	4
Scope of Assurance Review	5
Method	5
Assessment of work expenses	5
Summary of findings	5

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by Mr Willcox MP, Member for Dawson,⁷ during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023 (period in scope). The Assurance Review forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan.

Assurance Review Findings

2. Having regard to the available information, including the response and additional evidence provided by Mr Willcox, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of his travel during the period in scope was parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

Scope and Purpose

3. The scope of this Assurance Review is travel and travel-related expenses incurred by Mr Willcox during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.
4. The purpose of this Assurance Review was to determine whether Mr Willcox's use of parliamentary business resources during the relevant period was consistent with the legislative framework.

Engagement with Mr Willcox

5. On 7 June 2024, IPEA wrote to Mr Willcox with a series of questions in relation to his travel during the period in scope, inquiring about the dominant purpose of his travel, and the nature of his parliamentary business (**Attachment 1**).
6. Mr Willcox provided a detailed response on 12 June 2024 (**Attachment 2**).

Audit and Assurance function

IPEA's statutory audit function

7. IPEA audits parliamentarians' work expenses and the travel expenses of their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act). IPEA conducts Assurance Reviews to assess the use of parliamentary business resources (MP work resources and MOPS travel resources) against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.
8. Potential outcomes of an Assurance Review include:
 - a. no further action in circumstances where the review has concluded the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework, or
 - b. administrative remedial action, including penalty where the review has concluded there is evidence the use of parliamentary business resources was not consistent with the legislative framework, or
 - c. an IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit, where there is evidence of systemic or substantial misuse of parliamentary business resources, or
 - d. referral to the Australian Federal Police or National Anti-Corruption Commission, where compelling prima facie evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct is identified.

Legislative framework

9. IPEA applied the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) and its associated instruments as the relevant legislation for this Assurance Review. The PBR Act is a principles-based framework that requires parliamentarians to ensure expenditure is incurred for the ‘dominant purpose’ of conducting parliamentary business and in a manner that represents ‘value for money’.
10. The key instruments relevant to this Assurance Review are:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017*
11. Obligations: The principles-based legislative framework imposes a number of obligations upon parliamentarians in relation to their use of public resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources. They must be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business, and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources.
12. Parliamentarians are not able to claim public resources, including the work expenses prescribed in the Regulations, unless their travel:
 - is for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business;
 - represents value for money; and
 - meets the relevant conditions connected to the travel claim or expense.
13. ‘Parliamentary business’ has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* as ‘parliamentary duties’, ‘electorate duties’, ‘party political duties’ and ‘official duties’.

Assurance Review methodology

Background

14. Review of travel and travel-related expenses by new parliamentarians’ forms part of IPEA’s 3 Year Assurance Plan. On 3 November 2023, in accordance with IPEA’s Statutory Audit Function Sheet, IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment in relation to the use of travel and travel-related expenses by Mr Willcox.
15. Data was obtained from the Audit and Assurance dashboard for all travel undertaken by Mr Willcox, his family and his MOP(S) Act staff for the period 1 April to 30 June 2023. There were 96 transactions for Mr Willcox, 21 for his family, and 57 for staff employed in his office.
16. The Preliminary Assessment found that IPEA required further information to assess to use of Commonwealth-funded travel resources for Mr Willcox’s travel to Adelaide, Hobart and the Northern Territory during the period in scope.
17. On 6 December 2023, this matter progressed to an Assurance Review.

Scope of Assurance Review

18. The scope of this Assurance Review is travel and travel-related expenses incurred by Mr Willcox during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Method

19. IPEA gathered data from its internal and external sources for all of Mr Willcox's travel during the period in scope.
20. IPEA conducted the Assurance Review by examining and assessing:
 - direct communication with, and information provided by, Mr Willcox
 - publicly available material;
 - internal records held by IPEA

Assessment of work expenses

Summary of findings

Analysis

21. IPEA conducted the Assurance Review by examining and assessing:
 - a. Information obtained from the Audit and Assurance Dashboard.
 - b. Travel bookings and other records held by IPEA in the Parliamentary Expenses Management System.
 - c. The relevant legislation and supporting policies.
 - d. Information provided by Mr Willcox.
22. On 7 June 2024, IPEA wrote to Mr Willcox. This correspondence provided Mr Willcox with his Commonwealth funded travel for the relevant period, for which IPEA required additional information to assess. It also set out questions for Mr Willcox's response to assist in the review. In particular, Mr Willcox was asked about the dominant purpose of his travel and the nature of any parliamentary business in each location (**Attachment 1**).
23. In his response of 12 June 2024, Mr Willcox advised that the dominant purpose of his travel to each location was for parliamentary business (**Attachment 2**). He provided detailed information on what he was doing in each location, and evidence of the events.

Conclusion

24. Having regard to the available information, including the response and additional evidence provided by Mr Willcox, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of his travel during the period in scope was parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: Assurance Review - travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 7 June 2024 1:59:19 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Member for Dawson

Good afternoon Mr Willcox

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to an Assurance Review of your travel and travel-related expenses.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

7 June 2024

Mr Andrew Willcox MP
Member for Dawson
PO Box 1697
Mackay, QLD, 4740

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Willcox

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has a responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to review work resources accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA's assurance activities include reviewing the use of work resources to travel to desirable destinations, family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you and your spouse during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023. Please note IPEA publishes completed Assurance Reviews on the website at [Published audits, assurance reviews and rulings](#).

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (the Determination – **Attachment A**) define the four streams of parliamentary business. These are parliamentary duties, electorate duties, party political duties and official duties.

The principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources are set out in part 3 - division 2 of the PBR Act. As you would be aware, under subsection 26(3) of the PBR Act, a parliamentarian must not use public resources provided by the Commonwealth other than for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business. Further, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (subsection 25(3) of the PBR Act).

Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

Further, the use of travel expenses for family reunion must meet the three-part test below, set out in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:

A family member of a member travels for family reunion purposes if:

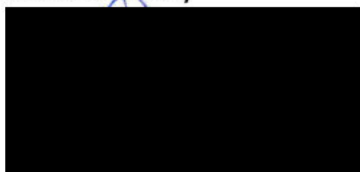
- (a) the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Attachment B details your Commonwealth funded travel, for which we require additional information to assess, for the relevant period. We have set out questions for your response to assist in our review. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please reference the definition of Parliamentary Business as outlined in the Determination and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **21 June 2024**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact Sian Thomas on 02 6215 2704.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000



Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

Contents

1 Name.....	1
2 Commencement	1
3 Authority.....	1
4 Interpretation.....	1
5 Parliamentary business of members.....	2
Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties	3
Schedule 2—Electorate duties	4
Schedule 3—Party political duties	4
Schedule 4—Official duties	5

1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise; b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose; c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member; d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function; e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio; f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates; g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose; h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function; i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	<p>In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so; b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity; c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

Attachment B

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Mackay	11/04/2023	12:45 PM	Brisbane	11/04/2023	02:10 PM	\$789.21
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Brisbane	11/04/2023	03:15 PM	Melbourne	11/04/2023	05:40 PM	\$789.21
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Melbourne	11/04/2023	07:30 PM	Hobart	11/04/2023	08:45 PM	\$789.21
Travel Allowance - Commercial (2 nights)	Bowen	11/04/2023		Hobart	11/04/2023	08:45 PM	\$740.00
Cabcharge	Hobart CBD	11/04/2023		Hobart CBD	11/04/2023	09:11 PM	\$60.11
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Hobart	13/04/2023	04:00 PM	Sydney	13/04/2023	05:55 PM	\$372.30
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Sydney	13/04/2023	06:35 PM	Brisbane	13/04/2023	08:05 PM	\$372.32
Travel Allowance - Commercial (1 Night)	Hobart	13/04/2023		Brisbane	13/04/2023	08:00 PM	\$431.00
Cabcharge	Brisbane Airport	13/04/2023		Spring Hill	13/04/2023	08:52 PM	\$56.60

Attachment B

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Cabcharge	Spring Hill	14/04/2023		Brisbane Airport	14/04/2023	09:20 AM	\$53.21
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Brisbane	14/04/2023	10:25 AM	Mackay	14/04/2023	12:05 PM	\$857.98
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Mackay	18/04/2023	12:45 PM	Brisbane	18/04/2023	02:10 PM	\$904.72
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Brisbane	18/04/2023	04:35 PM	Adelaide	18/04/2023	06:50 PM	\$904.72
Travel Allowance - Commercial (2 nights)		18/04/2023		Adelaide	18/04/2023	07:30 AM	\$764.00
Cabcharge	Adelaide Airport	18/04/2023		Adelaide Central Business District	18/04/2023	07:41 PM	\$32.76
Cabcharge	Adelaide Central Business District	20/04/2023		Adelaide Airport	20/04/2023	01:08 PM	\$25.41
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Adelaide	20/04/2023	03:45 PM	Brisbane	20/04/2023	06:40 PM	\$626.14
Cabcharge	Brisbane Airport	20/04/2023		Brisbane CBD	20/04/2023	07:48 PM	\$65.52

Attachment B

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Travel Allowance - Commercial (1 night)	Adelaide	20/04/2023		Brisbane	20/04/2023	06:30 PM	\$431.00
Cabcharge	Brisbane CBD	21/04/2023		Brisbane Airport	21/04/2023	09:02 AM	\$50.19
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Brisbane	21/04/2023	10:25 AM	Mackay	21/04/2023	12:05 PM	\$857.98
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS - Spouse	Canberra	12/05/2023	11:00 AM	Brisbane	12/05/2023	12:45 PM	\$816.60
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Canberra	12/05/2023	11:00 AM	Brisbane	12/05/2023	12:45 PM	\$747.00
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Brisbane	12/05/2023	01:50 PM	Cairns	12/05/2023	04:15 PM	\$977.49
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS - Spouse	Brisbane	12/05/2023	01:50 PM	Cairns	12/05/2023	04:15 PM	\$1,079.35
Travel Allowance - Commercial (1 night)		12/05/2023		Cairns	12/05/2023		\$337.00
Cabcharge	Aeroglen	12/05/2023		Cairns	12/05/2023	04:59 PM	\$24.68

Attachment B

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Cabcharge	Cairns	12/05/2023		Cairns	12/05/2023	09:11 PM	\$10.08
Cabcharge	Cairns	13/05/2023		Cairns	13/05/2023	06:54 AM	\$11.03
Cabcharge	Cairns	13/05/2023		Aeroglen	13/05/2023	12:59 PM	\$29.19
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS - Spouse	Cairns	13/05/2023	02:55 PM	Townsville	13/05/2023	03:50 PM	\$560.96
Travel Services Provider - QANTAS AIRWAYS	Cairns	13/05/2023	02:55 PM	Townsville	13/05/2023	03:50 PM	\$560.96

Hobart

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 11 and 13 April 2023?
2. With reference to the Determination (at Attachment A), what was the nature of any parliamentary business in Hobart between 11 and 13 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

Brisbane

3. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Brisbane between 13 and 14 April 2023?
4. With reference to the Determination (at Attachment A), what was the nature of any parliamentary business in Brisbane between 13 and 14 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

Attachment B

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Adelaide

5. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023?
6. With reference to the Determination (at **Attachment A**), what was the nature of any parliamentary business in Adelaide between 18 and 20 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

Brisbane

7. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Brisbane between 20 and 21 April 2023?
8. With reference to the Determination (at **Attachment A**), what was the nature of any parliamentary business in Brisbane between 20 and 21 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

Cairns

9. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Cairns between 12 and 13 May 2023?
10. With reference to the Determination (at **Attachment A**), what was the nature of any parliamentary business in Cairns between 12 and 13 May 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.
11. Please advise whether the use travel expenses to Cairns on 12 May 2023, meets the three-part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
 - a. You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business; and
 - b. Your family member was travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - c. Your family members' travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [Willcox, Andrew \(MP\)](#)
Subject: Response - RE: Assurance Review - travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 12 June 2024 5:46:37 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon IPEA,

Please find following and attached the information as requested from Andrew Willcox MP.

I confirm all travel taken is in accordance with the Act and provide further explanatory information below:

Hobart – 11th to 13th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was as a committee member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture
- Confirming this was parliamentary business and attached is the committee hearing itinerary.

Brisbane – 13th to 14th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was heading back to my electorate from the above committee travel, and overnight in Brisbane due to flight times.

Adelaide – 18th to 20th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was as a committee member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture
- Confirming this was parliamentary business and attached is the committee hearing itinerary.

Brisbane – 20th to 21st April 2023

- Purpose of travel was heading back to my electorate from the above committee travel, and overnight in Brisbane due to flight times.

Cairns – 12 to 13th May 2023

- Purpose of travel was for Party Political activities.
- Conference programme attached
- Confirming the use of travel expenses for my spouse meets the three-part criteria test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017.
- I make note a ruling was requested by IPEA and this was confirmed as approval to proceed with the spousal travel.

Any further information, please let me know.

Kind regards, Andrew Willcox MP

Federal Member for Dawson

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Office of Andrew Willcox MP | Federal Member for Dawson



To have your say [click here](#)

Follow Andrew on Socials: Facebook [Andrewwillcoxmp](#) | Instagram [Andrewwillcoxmp](#) |
LinkedIn [Andrewwillcoxmp](#)

Good morning/afternoon Nicole,

Thank you for your email.

I confirm all travel taken is in accordance with the Act and provide further explanatory information below:

Hobart – 11th to 13th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was as a committee member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture
- Confirming this was parliamentary business and attached is the committee hearing itinerary.

Brisbane – 13th to 14th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was heading back to my electorate from the above committee travel, and overnight in Brisbane due to flight times.

Adelaide – 18th to 20th April 2023

- Purpose of travel was as a committee member of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture
- Confirming this was parliamentary business and attached is the committee hearing itinerary.

Brisbane – 20th to 21st April 2023

- Purpose of travel was heading back to my electorate from the above committee travel, and overnight in Brisbane due to flight times.

Cairns – 12 to 13th May 2023

- Purpose of travel was for Party Political activities.
- Conference programme attached
- Confirming the use of travel expenses for my spouse meets the three-part criteria test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017.
- I make note a ruling was requested by IPEA and this was confirmed as approval to proceed with the spousal travel.

Any further information, please let me know.

Kind regards, Andrew Willcox MP

Federal Member for Dawson

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 1:58:56 PM

To: Willcox, Andrew (MP Office) [REDACTED] >

Cc: Assurance <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Assurance Review - travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Mr Andrew Willcox MP

Member for Dawson

Good afternoon Mr Willcox

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to an Assurance Review of your travel and travel-related expenses.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

E: [REDACTED]

W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

Be careful with this message

External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

Public hearing & inspections

Meeting Nos. 14-15

Wednesday, 12 April 2023

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Committee Room 1

Parliament House, Hobart TAS

Thursday, 13 April 2023

7:20am – 3:00pm

Inspections Triabunna & Okehampton Bay

Secretariat contacts



PARLIAMENTARY-IN-CONFIDENCE

Agenda and table of contents

Agenda and table of contents	1
Itinerary	2
Program	4
Terms of Reference.....	5
Tasmanian Government	6
Salmon Tasmania.....	8
Sea Forest Limited	10
Inspection notes – 13 April.....	12


Committee Secretary

5 April 2023

Itinerary

Inquiry into food security in Australia

Public Hearing & Inspections

Wednesday, 12 April 2023

Committee Room 1, Parliament House, Hobart

Thursday, 13 April 2023

Triabunna and Okehampton Bay

Time (AEDT)	Witness
12 April, Morning	<p>Arrive Hobart</p> <p>Accommodation required for 1 night.</p> <p>The secretariat will be staying at:</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 40px;"></div>
2.00pm	<p>Public hearing, Hobart</p> <p>Committee Room 1, Parliament House, Hobart</p> <p>Travel to venue – Members’ own arrangements</p>
4.00pm	<p>Public hearing concludes</p>
4.30pm	<p>Private briefing with Tassal.</p> <p>1 Franklin Wharf (5 min walk from Parliament House).</p> <p>Sign in on Level 9 before visiting the feed centre on Level 8.</p>
5.00pm	<p>Return to accommodation.</p> <p>Travel to accommodation – Members’ own arrangements.</p> <p>Dinner – Members’ own arrangements.</p>

Time (AEDT)	Witness
13 April, 7.20am	<p>Depart Hobart</p> <p>The Committee will be travelling by bus provided by the secretariat. It will depart Customs House, 1 Murray St, Hobart.</p> <p>Members should arrive by 7.20am for a 7.30am departure.</p> <p>Members should check out of accommodation and make their own way to the point of departure.</p>
8.45am	Tassal processing facility – Triabunna; (1 hour at Tassal; approx. 15 mins to Okehampton Bay).
10.00am	Tassal Salmon Farm & Sea Forest kelp beds – Okehampton Bay. (1.5 hours at Okehampton Bay; approx. 15 mins return to Triabunna)
11.45am	Sea Forest – seaweed facility; (1 hour at Sea Forest; return to Triabunna for lunch).
1.00pm	Lunch Triabunna
2.00pm	Depart Triabunna
3.00pm	<p>Arrive Hobart Airport. Members depart for home ports.</p> <p>Travel to home ports – Members’ own arrangements.</p>

Program

Inquiry into food security in Australia

Public Hearing

Wednesday, 12 April 2023

Committee Room 1, Parliament House, Hobart

Time (AEDT)	Witness
2.00pm	<p><i>Tasmanian Government (Submission 102)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] A/Director Trade, Development and Marketing, Trade and International Relations, Department of State Growth • [REDACTED] Executive Director, Business Tasmania • [REDACTED] Deputy Secretary, Primary Industries and Water, Department of Natural Resources and Environment • [REDACTED] Assistant Director (AgriGrowth Tasmania), Primary Industries and Water, Department of Natural Resources and Environment • [REDACTED] Deputy Director of Public Health, Department of Health
2.40pm	<p><i>Salmon Tasmania</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] Chair (by teleconference)
3.20pm	<p><i>Sea Forest Limited</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] CEO
4.00pm	CLOSE

Terms of Reference

Food Security in Australia

The Committee will inquire into and report on strengthening and safeguarding food security in Australia, including examining:

National production, consumption and export of food;

- Access to key inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and labour, and their impact on production costs;
- The impact of supply chain distribution on the cost and availability of food; and
- The potential opportunities and threats of climate change on food production in Australia.

Tasmanian Government

2.00pm – 2.40pm

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of the Tasmanian Government are:

- [REDACTED], A/Director Trade, Development and Marketing, Trade and International Relations, Department of State Growth
- [REDACTED], Executive Director, Business Tasmania
- [REDACTED], Deputy Secretary, Primary Industries and Water, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- [REDACTED], Assistant Director (AgriGrowth Tasmania), Primary Industries and Water, Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- [REDACTED], Deputy Director of Public Health, Department of Health

Submission Summary

The Tasmanian Government's submission (Submission 102) notes that Tasmania produces far more food than it consumes, but that food insecurity is a significant issue within the Tasmanian community. It identifies the importance of data collection to better identify and resolve food insecurity.

The submission highlights Tasmanian agriculture's reliance on the itinerant and seasonal workforce, and the impacts that labour shortages have had on production, including increased production costs and an inability to process forecast volumes. Labour has remained in short supply post the pandemic border closures.

The pandemic saw a sharp rise in supply chain costs, which are still significantly higher than pre-COVID levels. The seafood industry, in particular, is susceptible to supply chain disruptions and market shocks. The value of Tasmanian rock lobster fell by nearly 50 per cent due to a combination of depressed prices and lower export volumes.

The submission notes that 'climate change is a critical issue facing Tasmania, with increasing water temperatures, extreme weather events and marine heatwaves being just some of the impacts affecting the State'. Extreme weather has also impacted harvest and planting timings, resulting in sporadic supply to consumers and processors.

The Tasmanian government is responding by supporting the development of sustainable aquaculture; strengthening local food systems; protecting prime agricultural land; and supporting nutritional education. It supports retaining the GST exemption on fresh food.

Possible questions

Food production in Tasmania

1. What are Tasmania's top ten food producing industries by value and volume?
2. How much food does Tasmania export to the rest of Australia?
3. What are Tasmania's main exports to the rest of the world?

4. What are Tasmania's main food imports?
5. Has the Tasmanian Government considered the development of a comprehensive food security strategy?
6. What is the Tasmanian Government doing to protect high-value agricultural land from encroachment by other land uses?

Local food initiatives

7. How important is localised food production and distribution to food security?
8. What initiatives is the Tasmanian government pursuing to promote local food production and distribution?

Labour shortages

9. What impacts are labour shortages having on food production in Tasmania?
10. What is the best way to address labour shortages in Tasmanian food production?

Climate change

11. What are the main threats from climate change to food production in Tasmania?
12. Will climate change bring about significant changes to what is produced and where?
13. Are there opportunities for Tasmanian agriculture from climate change?

Salmon Tasmania

2.40pm – 3.20pm

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of Salmon Tasmania is:

- [REDACTED] – Chair (by teleconference)

Background

Salmon Tasmania is the peak body representing the salmon aquaculture industry in Tasmania. Salmon production is worth nearly \$1 billion and growing. The industry employs 2,292 full-time equivalent workers directly, and another 10,000 indirectly. It has a gross production value of \$888 million. The Tasmanian salmon industry is the largest fishery in Australia by both volume and economic value. Farmed salmon has become the leading farming activity in Tasmania.

Industry Summary

According to [Salmon Tasmania](#), salmon farming has a small environmental footprint compared to other agricultural industries, while producing food of high nutritional value. It noted that 'increased consumption of fish can reduce global emissions and improve human health', and that 'there is untapped potential for our oceans to produce more sustainable food', with salmon being 'a major part of the solution'.

Salmon farming 'has a low carbon footprint, high energy and protein retention efficiency and low water footprint'. It has a Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) lower than all other farmed animals. While a kilogram of beef requires between 6-10kgs of feed, a kilogram of salmon meat requires just 1.2-1.5kgs.

The industry places an emphasis on waste management and recycling. Salmon skins, viscera, salmon heads and frames, offcuts, graded-off smolt and fry, are used in domestic pet food; hatchery water and sludge (left over post-water filtration) is used by farmers and agriculturalists to replenish farming soil. Used equipment, such as old ropes, pipes and nets, 'are regularly donated by the companies to schools, wildlife shelters and other community groups'.

The industry 'is committed to understanding how our operations interact with a changing climate and how we can proactively mitigate climate risks for the future'. Climate risk mitigation measures include:

- moving to rougher offsite farming sites where dissolved oxygen and water temperature are better for the fish;
- extending the grow-out period in onshore facilities;
- routine monitoring of sea temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen;
- upgrading pen infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events;
- selectively breeding thermotolerant and disease resistant fish;
- undertaking trials with global feed companies to develop an easy-to-digest summer diet; and

- investing in renewable energy sources and participation in relevant R&D to ensure farming practices continue to adapt.

Possible questions

Salmon industry and food security

1. What are the growth prospects of the salmon industry in Tasmania?
2. How do you see the salmon industry contributing to food security in Australia?
3. What challenges does your industry face in terms of cost and access to fuel and energy?
4. What challenges does your industry face in terms of cost and access to labour?
5. What are the principal sources of feed for farmed salmon?
 - How expensive and accessible is this feed?

Environmental footprint and climate change

6. What environmental challenges does the Tasmanian Salmon industry face?
 - How environmentally sustainable is the salmon industry?
7. What risk does global warming represent to the long-term prospects of the salmon industry in Tasmania?
 - Is there a risk that rising water temperatures will make salmon farming unviable?
8. Salmon production has a low carbon footprint. How does this compare to other protein producing industries?

Sea Forest Limited

3.20pm – 4.00pm

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of Sea Forest Limited is:

- [REDACTED] – CEO

Background

Sea Forest is an Asparagopsis seaweed research and cultivation company, based in Triabunna, Tasmania, producing Asparagopsis feed supplements to reduce methane emissions in stock. It has a laboratory and hatchery developing Asparagopsis cultivation methodologies in Triabunna, and cultivates seaweed in offshore farms.

Organisation Summary

[Sea Forest](#) cultivates Asparagopsis seaweed, producing a feed supplement designed to reduce methane production in livestock. The Asparagopsis feed supplement 'contains bioactive compounds which prevent methane production in ruminant livestock'. This is achieved by 'competitively inhibiting the enzymatic pathway which produces methane at the last stage of digestion'. According to Sea Forest, 'animals whose diets contains 0.2% of their supplement will have methane reductions up to 98%'. Sea Forest notes that metabolic conversion of methane represents up to 20% of feed energy; use of their supplements enhances productivity by 'accelerated growth of livestock, less feed and resource wastage meaning more food with less impact'. Sea Forest notes that 'methane has a global warming effect 28 times that of CO₂, causing livestock to contribute 16% of global greenhouse emissions'.

Possible questions

Asparagopsis

1. Your company produces Asparagopsis feed to supplement the diets of ruminant livestock and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Could you please outline for the Committee the work you are currently undertaking and how you anticipate your industry developing?
2. How do Asparagopsis feed supplements reduce methane emissions in livestock?
 - What classes of livestock are these supplements suited to?
3. How effective are Asparagopsis feed supplements at reducing methane emissions from livestock?
4. Are there other marine plants which could be used to supplement livestock feed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
5. Would it be possible to largely or entirely eliminate methane emissions from livestock using Asparagopsis or similar feed supplements?
6. What is the cost of Asparagopsis feed?

- What is the cost per animal?
7. Does the use of Asparagopsis feed contribute to Australia's food security?
 - If so, how?
 8. What other environmental benefits are there to the cultivation and use of Asparagopsis?

Inspection notes – 13 April

Transport

The secretariat has arranged bus transport for the day's inspections at Triabunna and Okehampton Bay.

Departure is from Customs House, 1 Murray St, Hobart, at 7.30am. Members should arrive at this location by 7.20am for a 7.30 am departure.

The bus charter concludes at Hobart Airport at 3.00pm, which will allow Members to board flights to/through Sydney or Melbourne.

Meals

Meals will not be provided. Members should ensure that they have breakfast before travel. A lunch stop will be held in Triabunna at the end of the inspections.

Tassal

Tassal is one of the major farmed salmon producers in Tasmania, with offshore aquaculture operations in several locations around the Tasmanian coast. The Committee will visit the Tassal salmon production facilities in Triabunna, before going on water to inspect salmon pens in Okehampton Bay. This latter activity will be done in conjunction with Sea Forest.

Sea Forest

Sea Forest is a company undertaking research and production of *Asparagopsis* seaweed as feed supplements for stock animals. In conjunction with the visit to the salmon pens, the Committee will inspect the offshore kelp beds owned by Sea Forest. The Committee will then visit Sea Forest's research and production facilities in Triabunna.

PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS 2023

(Issued 1 December 2022)

	MONTH	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun	School Holidays
A U T U M N	January						1	
		2	3	4	5	6	7/8	
		9	10	11	12	13	14/15	
		16	17	18	19	20	21/22	
		23	24	25	26 <i>Australia Day</i>	27	28/29	NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA, WA, NT TAS
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5	
	February	6	7	8 <	9	10	11/12	
		13 H/SBE	14 H/SBE	15 H/SBE	16 H/SBE	17 SBE	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25/26	
		27	28	1	2	3	4/5	
	March	6 WA	7	8	9	10	11/12	
		13 ACT, TAS, VIC	14	15	16	17	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24 S <	25/26	
		27	28	29	30	31	1/2	
	April	3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday	8/9	QLD
		10 Easter Monday	11	12	13	14	15/16	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, WA, NT, TAS
		17	18	19	20	21	22/23	NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA, WA
		24	25 ANZAC Day	26	27	28	29/30	SA
W I N T E R	May	1 NT, QLD	2	3	4	5	6/7	
		8	9 Budget	10 <	11	12	13/14	
		15	16	17	18	19	20/21	
		22 H/BE	23 H/BE	24 H/BE	25 H/BE	26 BE	27/28	
		29 ACT	30 H/BE	31 H/BE	1 H/BE	2 BE	3/4	
	June	5 WA	6	7	8	9	10/11	
		12 ACT, NSW, NT, SA, VIC	13	14	15	16 S	17/18	
		19	20 <	21	22	23	24/25	
		26	27	28	29	30	1/2	QLD, NT, VIC
		3	4	5	6	7 NT	8/9	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, NT, WA
	July	10	11	12	13	14	15/16	NSW, ACT, TAS, SA, WA, NT
		17	18	19	20	21	22/23	SA
		24	25	26	27	28	29/30	
		31	1	2	3	4	5/6	
		7	8 <	9	10	11	12/13	
	August	14	15	16	17	18	19/20	
		21	22	23	24	25	26/27	
		28	29	30	31	1	2/3	
		4	5	6	7	8	9/10	
		11	12 <	13	14	15	16/17	
	September	18	19	20	21	22	23/24	QLD, VIC
		25 WA	26	27	28	29	30/1	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, WA, NT
		2 ACT, NSW, SA, QLD	3	4	5	6	7/8	TAS, SA, NSW, WA, NT, ACT
		9	10	11	12	13	14/15	SA, TAS
		16	17	18	19	20	21/22	
S P R I N G	October	23 H/SBE	24 H/SBE	25 H/SBE	26 H/SBE	27 SBE	28/29	
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5	
		6 S	7 S VIC	8 S	9 S	10 S	11/12	
		13	14	15	16	17 S	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25/26	
	November	27 <	28	29	30	1	2/3	
		4 S	5 S	6 S	7 S	8	9/10	
		11	12	13	14	15	16/17	
		18	19	20	21	22	23/24	
		25	26	27	28	29	30/31	
	December							

Both Houses

H = HoR only

S = Senate Only

Public Holiday

BE = Budget Estimates

SBE = Supplementary Budget Estimates

< = date of Senate 2/3 cut-off



Latitudes North

CAIRNS 11-13 MAY 2023

Unlocking
Northern
Australia's
Real Potential.

Welcome to **Latitudes North**

Thank you for joining us in Cairns for Latitudes North 2023.

Latitudes North is an LNP forum dedicated to policy discussion and issues concerning the social and economic development of North Queensland.

We are grateful to have the LNP State Parliamentary Team in Cairns this week for a regional sitting of Parliament, and for the opportunities they have had to meet families, business operators and community members across the North, particularly in this critical pre-election year.

We wish you all a wonderful warm weekend in the Tropical North.

PROGRAM

Thursday, 11 May 2023		
6:30pm – 7:30pm	LNP State Politics in the Pub	<i>Rattle n Hum, Cairns Esplanade</i>

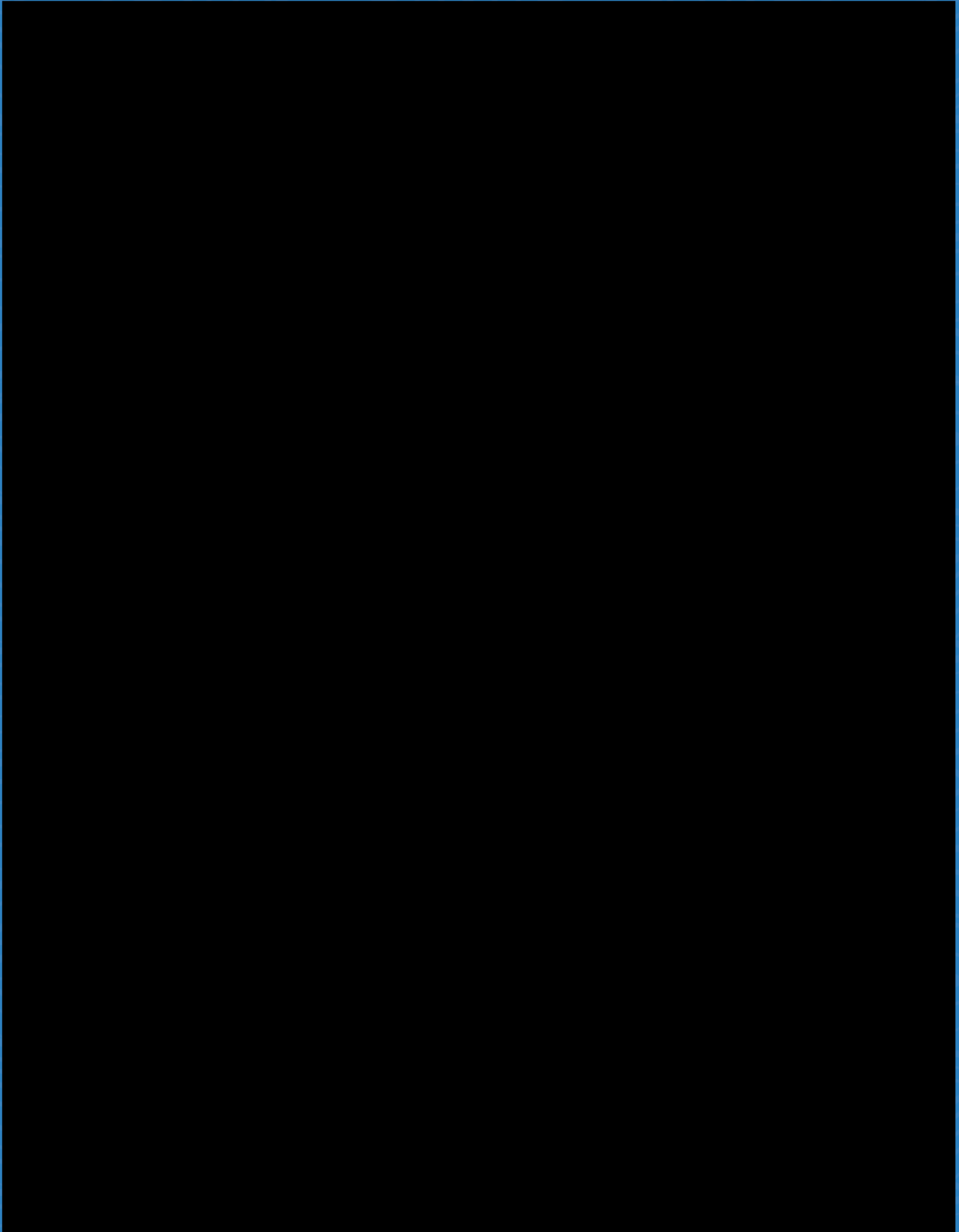
Friday, 12 May 2023		
11:00am – 12:30pm	Registrations Open	<i>The Benson Hotel</i>
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Official Opening [REDACTED] LNP Vice President (Regional) [REDACTED] LNP Vice President (Metropolitan) [REDACTED] LNP State Director [REDACTED] LNP State Secretary Prayer: [REDACTED] National Anthem: [REDACTED] Welcome to Latitudes North: [REDACTED] Leader of the Opposition	
1:30pm – 2:45pm	Panel Discussion - <i>Where you Live and Work</i> Facilitated by [REDACTED] Member for Nanango Panelists - [REDACTED] Senator Susan McDonald	
2:45pm – 3:00pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Queensland 2024 Presentation – <i>Winning North Queensland Digital Strategy</i> Introduction by [REDACTED] LNP State Director Presentation by [REDACTED] TCT The Campaign Team	
4:00pm – 5:15pm	Panel Discussion – <i>The Northern Crime Map</i> Facilitated by Senator Paul Scarr, LNP Senator for Queensland Panelists – [REDACTED] Phil Thompson OAM MP	

PROGRAM

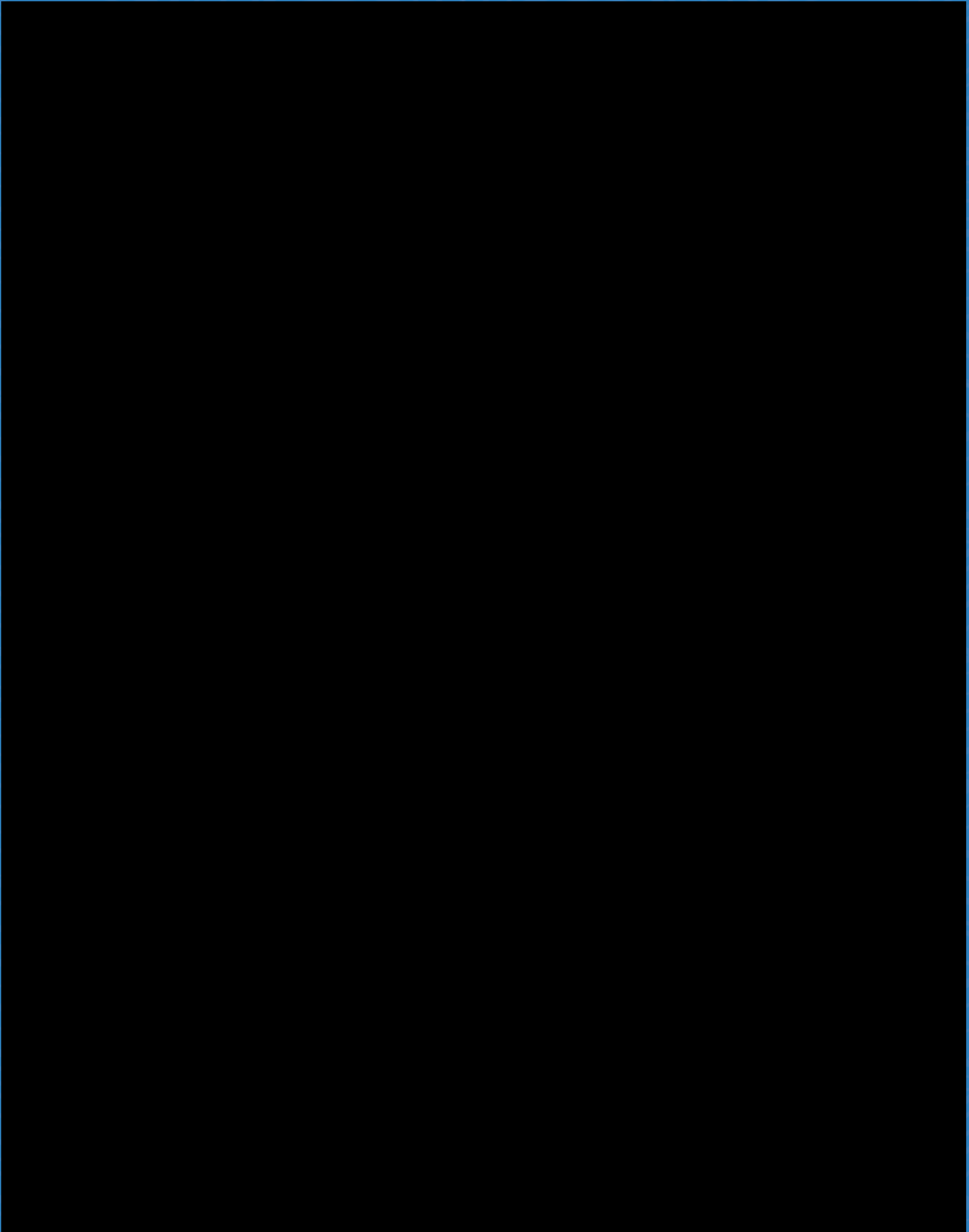
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Registration for Latitudes North Welcome Dinner
6:00pm – 9:00pm	<p>Latitudes North Welcome Dinner <i>The Benson Hotel</i></p> <p>Dinner Compered by [REDACTED] MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition</p> <p>Guest Speaker [REDACTED] Leader of the Opposition</p> <p>Keynote Speaker Introduction by Senator Paul Scarr, LNP Senator for Queensland</p> <p>Keynote Speaker, [REDACTED] Chair Nyungga Black Group</p> <p>Vote of Thanks, Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt</p> <p>Raffle Prize Draw, [REDACTED] Member for Chatsworth</p>

Saturday, 13 May 2023	
6:45am – 7:00am	Registration <i>The Benson Hotel</i>
7:00am – 8:45am	<p>Empowerment Through Community Engagement Breakfast</p> <p>Compered by [REDACTED] LNP Vice President (Metropolitan)</p> <p>Panelists – [REDACTED]</p>
9:00am – 10:15am	<p>Queensland 2024 Panel Discussion – A Healthier North Queensland</p> <p>Facilitated by Senator Gerard Rennick, LNP Senator for Queensland</p> <p>Panelists [REDACTED]</p>
10:15am – 10:30am	Morning Tea
10:30am – 11:45am	<p>Queensland 2024 Presentation – Winning North Queensland</p> <p>Facilitated by [REDACTED] LNP State Director</p> <p>Panelists – [REDACTED] Senator Susan McDonald, Senator the Hon James McGrath, Andrew Wilcox MP</p>
11:45am – 1:00pm	<p>Queensland 2024 Panel Discussion – Developing North Australia</p> <p>Facilitated by Councillor [REDACTED] Deputy Mayor Hinchinbrook Shire Council</p> <p>Panelists – [REDACTED] Senator Susan McDonald, Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan</p>
1:00pm – 1:30pm	<p>Close</p> <p>[REDACTED] LNP Region Chair Far North and Gulf</p>

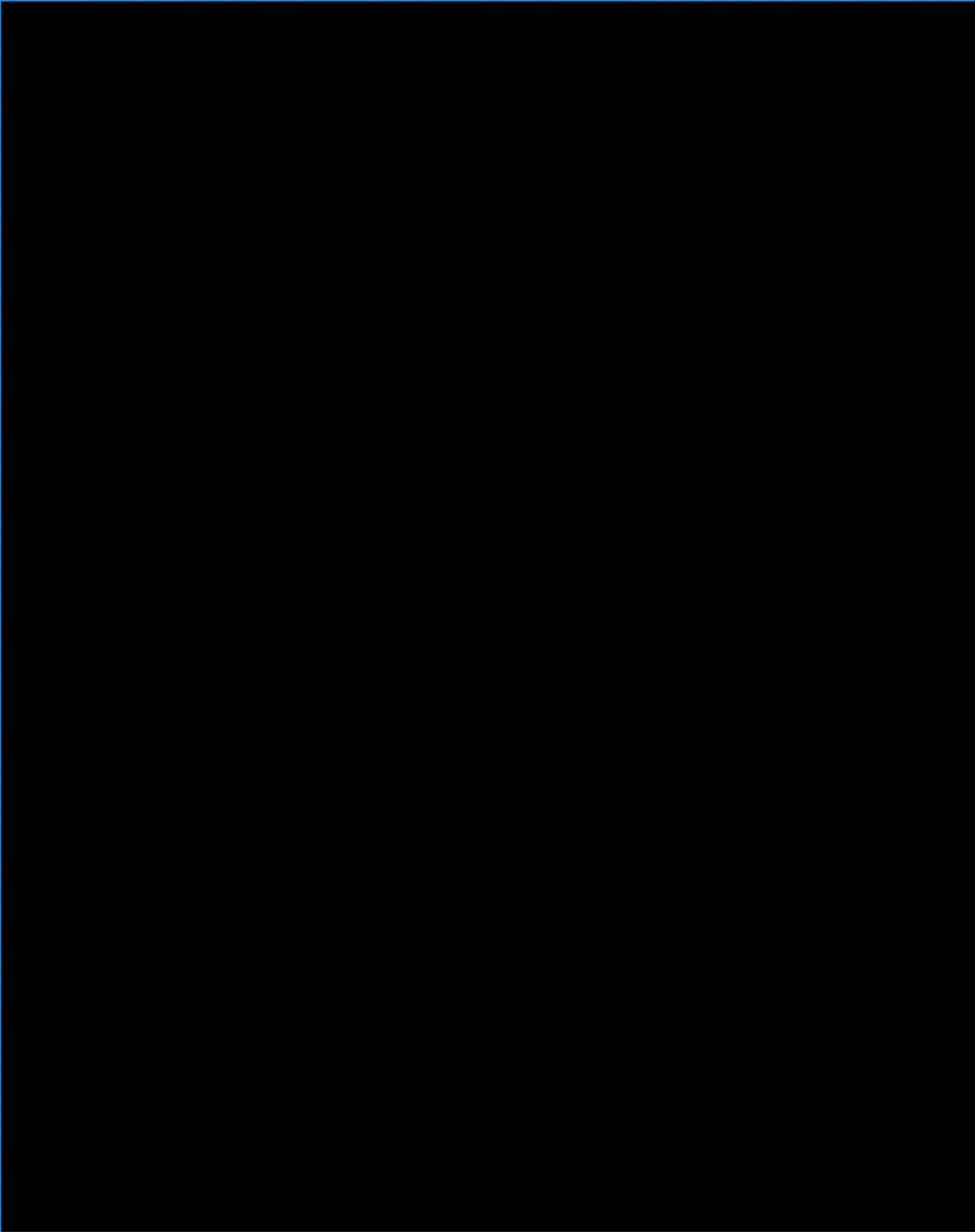
YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



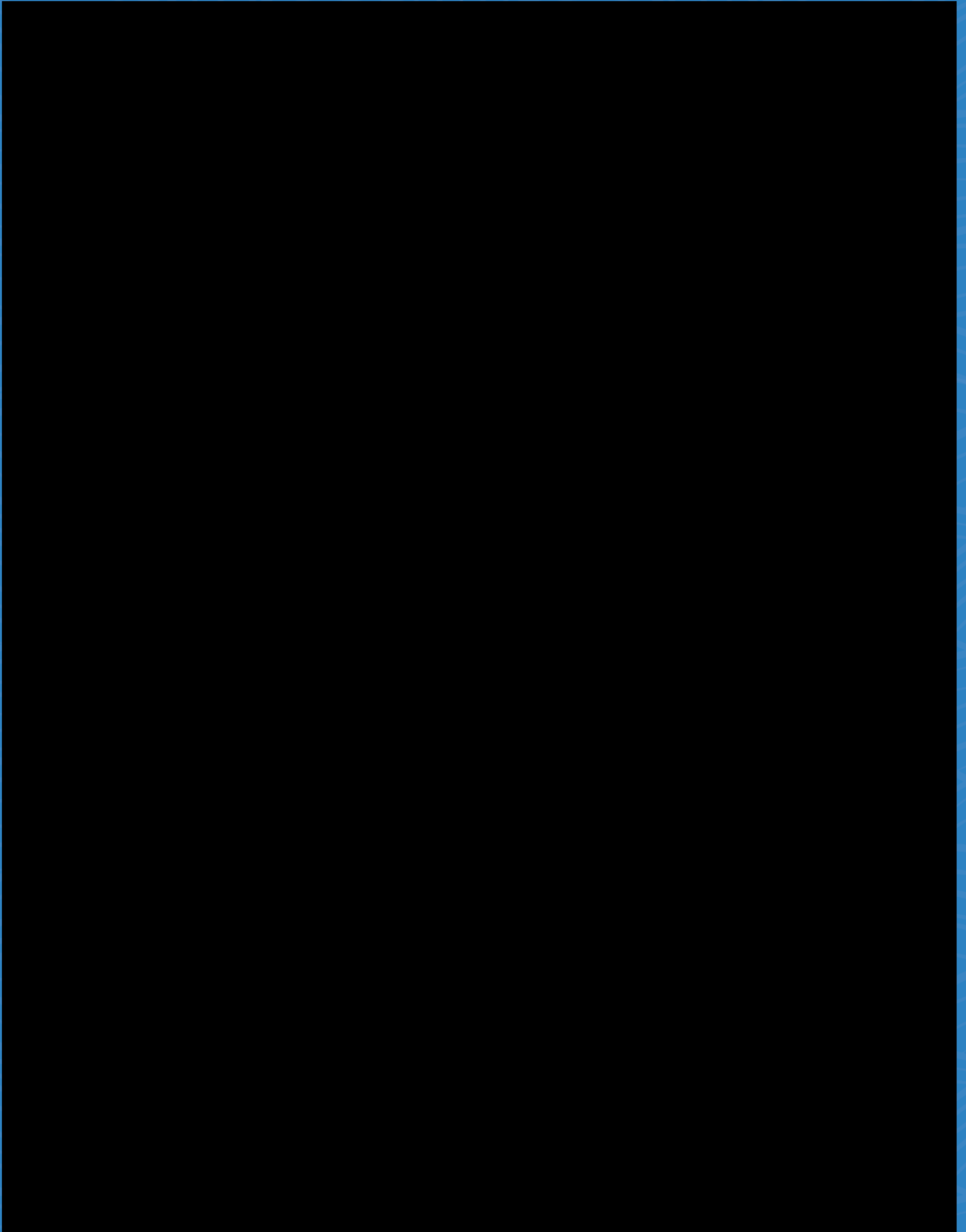
YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



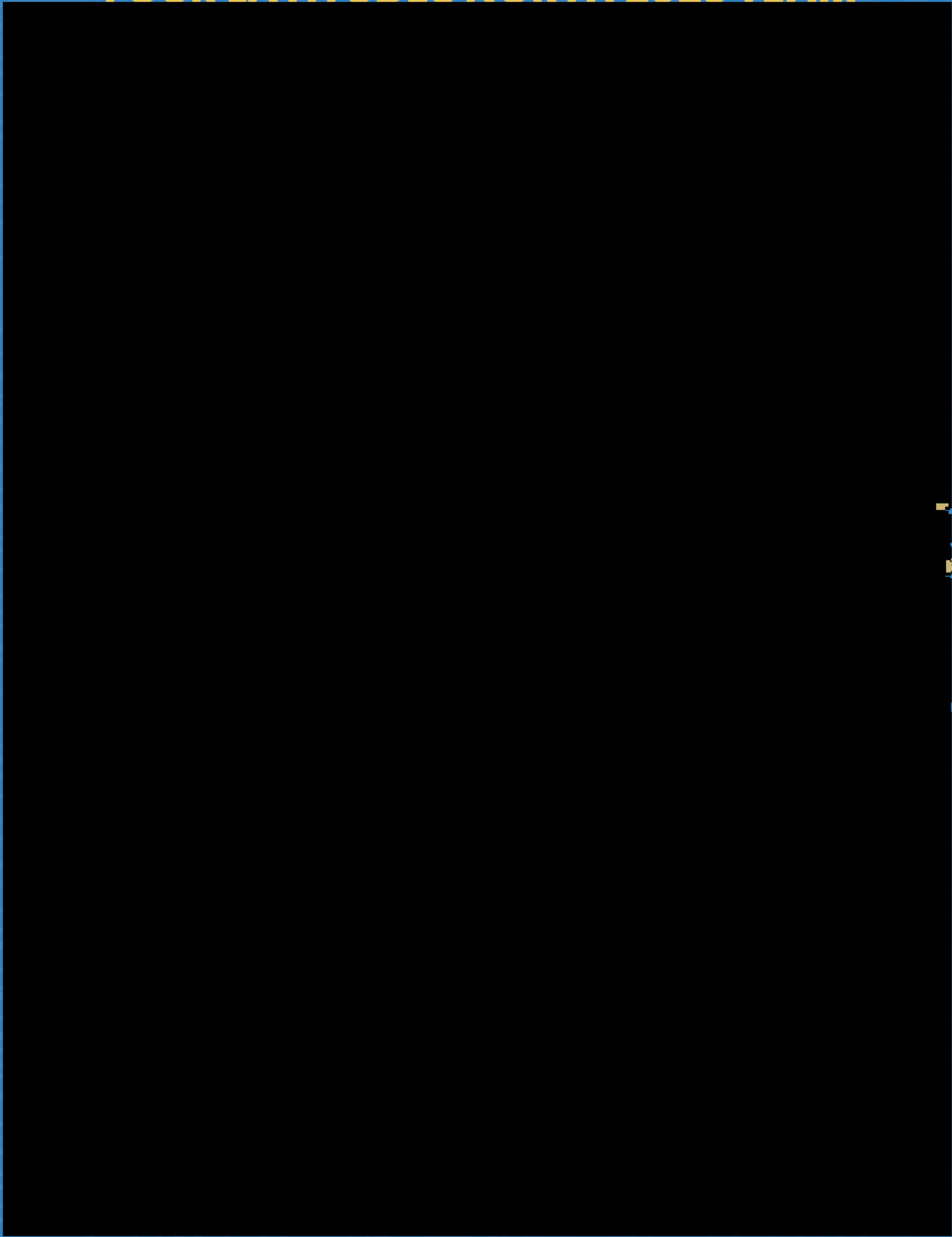
YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt

Warren's diverse career has given him a unique insight when representing his community in Canberra. He has worked as a railway porter, insurance clerk, real estate salesman, fitter and turner with a mining company, grazier, crocodile farmer, and served for nine years in the RAAF as an aircraft engine fitter. Warren entered federal politics in March 1996 and retired at the 2007 election to spend more time with his teenage son. He recontested the 2010 election and won - becoming the first person in Australian political history to retire and then win back his seat. He has held numerous roles over his parliamentary career, most recently being Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia and the Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef. He has also played an active role on numerous industry and advisory groups during his political career. Warren prides himself on listening, acting, and delivering for his community. He is a passionate and effective advocate for our community in Canberra – Warren is widely regarded as a person who can be trusted to protect our way of life in Far North Queensland. When he is not working in his vast electorate, Warren enjoys spending time on his farm with his family, collecting art, breeding birds, or bushwalking.



Phillip Thompson OAM MP, Member for Herbert

Phillip served as a soldier of the Townsville-based First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, with the core values of protecting the Australian way of life, freedom of speech, family and reward for effort - all characteristics which Phillip proudly carries in his day-to-day life. Phillip served in East Timor and Afghanistan, and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 where he was wounded in action when an Improvised Explosive Device detonated within one metre of him. The blast resulted in Phillip sustaining severe injuries and he was medically evacuated back to Australia. As well as obvious physical injuries from the blast, Phillip also suffered from traumatic brain injury and several other life changing conditions. Phillip spent the next several years putting all of his efforts into recovery and coming out the other side stronger than ever before. Today, he is passionate about helping others overcome adversity to become the best versions of themselves. Since leaving the Defence Force, Phillip has worked in mental well-being and suicide prevention organisations. In 2018 he was named the Queensland Young Australian of the Year, for his work in mental illness and suicide prevention. He was then awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for significant service to the welfare of war veterans in 2018. Passionate about his home town, and wanting Townsville to be a great place to raise his family, he decided to run for office. Phillip wants to see the Herbert electorate prosper again, to be a region where there is opportunity and reward for effort, and a city in which we can have great confidence in the future.



Andrew Wilcox MP, Member for Dawson

Andrew Willcox is a born and bred North Queenslander, a farmer by trade, a husband, father, and a family man. He began his political career in 2012, where he was elected as a Councillor in the Whitsunday Regional Council. Subsequently, in 2016, he was elected as Mayor, where he led the Whitsunday region through floods, cyclones, and other devastating events, also delivering more than \$200 million in State and Federal funding in the process. Andrew's experience and passion for his community is what guided him to successfully run for the seat of Dawson in the 2022 Federal election. As the current Federal Member, his values have not wavered; he's fighting to cut red tape, support our primary industries, support our small businesses and grow his region. Andrew's passion is to achieve the very best for his electorate of Dawson to get the fair share that it deserves.

YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM

Senator Susan McDonald, LNP Senator for Queensland



Susan grew up on her family's cattle property, 70 kilometres south of Cloncurry. Her first schooling was as a correspondence student of the Mount Isa School of the Air, before attending boarding school in Brisbane. Her first job was cooking for a stock camp and working at Expo '88 in Brisbane, before attending the University of Queensland to study commerce and accounting, with the idea of returning to the family station to manage the bookkeeping. Circumstances changed and she worked as an accountant in Brisbane, before working as Chief of Staff for then Natural Resources and Mines Minister, Andrew Cripps. Susan then managed a chain of butcher shops in Brisbane and the Gold Coast for six years before being elected to the Senate for Queensland in 2019. She was the Special Envoy for Northern Australia and Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee in the Coalition Government, and in June 2022, was named Shadow Minister for Resources and Shadow Minister for Northern Australia, roles in which she is helping grow our country's most important region and industries. Susan has three children and is based in Townsville.

Senator Paul Scarr, LNP Senator for Queensland



Paul Scarr brings to the Senate his experience of 25 years in the private sector, including working as a senior executive in the mining industry. He currently serves as Deputy Opposition Whip and as Chair of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee. Paul was born in Sydney in 1969 and moved to Queensland with his family at the age of seven. The Scarr family joined the many people who came to Queensland from interstate, looking for the opportunities provided by a government that supported development. After completing high school at Ipswich Grammar School, he enrolled at the University of Queensland, and in 1992, graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (Honours). In 2007, Paul completed a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance. He is now a fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia. Following his time at UQ, Paul went on to have a successful career as a Senior Associate in two of Brisbane's premier law firms: Allens Arthur Robertson (now Allens) and King and Wood Mallesons. This period of his professional life included two years working in Papua New Guinea, which provided him with a unique appreciation of the country as Australia's closest neighbour and a keen interest in furthering Australia's relationship with the Pacific. After being approached to take on the role of Company Secretary and General Counsel at PanAust Limited, Paul joined the Brisbane-based mining company. PanAust went on to become one of the top 100 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange with annual revenue in excess of \$1 billion. He formed part of the leadership team that built two mines in South East Asia, navigated the Global Financial Crisis and negotiated with some of Australia's most significant trading partners, including government and private sector stakeholders in Laos, Myanmar, Chile, PNG, Thailand, South Korea, India, Japan and China. Performing in this role for 12 years, Paul experienced first-hand the impact government can have on business and its ability to create jobs and provide opportunity for people. From the age of 17, when Paul first joined the Indooroopilly Branch of the Queensland Young Liberals, he has had a keen interest and an active involvement in Australian political life. As a member of the Liberal National Party for over 30 years, he strongly believes in and shares its timeless values of free enterprise, smaller government, the importance of the family as the fundamental building block of society, and the freedoms of conscience, religion, expression and association. Paul believes in a society which provides opportunity for all and support for those in need. Paul and his wife, Louise, were married in 2012 and live in Brisbane, together with their two rescue greyhounds. In his spare time he enjoys indulging his passion for history.

YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM

Senator Gerard Rennick, LNP Senator for Queensland



Gerard was born and raised on a farming property just outside Chinchilla, on Queensland's Darling Downs. Family, reward for effort and self-reliance are values he holds strong. Thanks to his rural upbringing and childhood experiences, Gerard maintains a deep appreciation for the land, its people and the challenges they face. Gerard completed his secondary education in Toowoomba, before moving to Brisbane where he completed a Commerce degree at the University of Queensland – and later a Master's degree in Taxation Law and a second Masters in Applied Finance. Gerard has extensive experience in senior finance roles across a range of industries, business types and countries. His experience gives him a strong understanding of our economy and how it affects consumers, investors, employers and employees. Gerard also understands the importance of reward for effort and will always strive to ensure that Australia's small to medium-sized businesses are given every opportunity to succeed. Gerard's involvement in the private sector has given him a wealth of experience in sound business principles, and as an LNP Senator for Queensland, he recognises the value of strong economic management, property rights and a just legal system. He is also passionate about land management and ensuring the delivery of critical infrastructure and essential services. Gerard wants to ensure that our children are given the same opportunities our forefathers gave to us. Gerard is a strong proponent that good government is the best form of community service and those who have gained from it should give it back in return. Australians should not take our success for granted. He believes that in order to ensure Australia's continued prosperity, we must foster a culture where we are encouraged to rely on ourselves and not others.

Senator the Hon James McGrath, LNP Senator for Queensland



Originally from the Sunshine Coast, James spent his childhood across regional Queensland. James completed undergraduate studies in commerce and law at Griffith University. He later completed postgraduate studies in law at the Queensland University of Technology. Prior to entering the Senate, James worked in Australia and overseas in various roles, including law, campaigns, public policy and politics. James was elected as a Senator for Queensland in 2013, taking up his position on 1 July 2014. His office is based in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast. He currently serves as the Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the Opposition, Peter Dutton, and Shadow Assistant Minister for Finance.

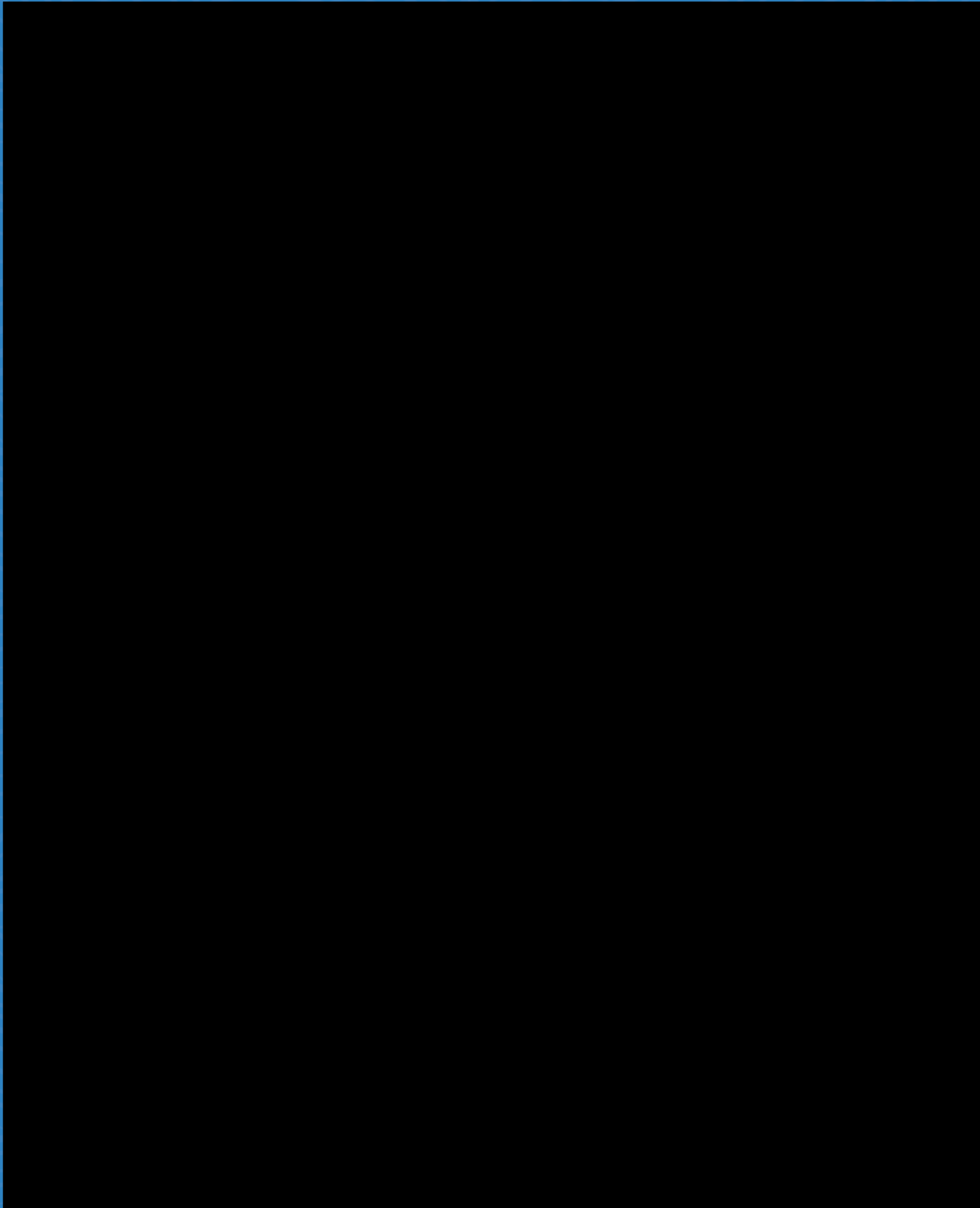
YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM

Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan, LNP Senator for Queensland

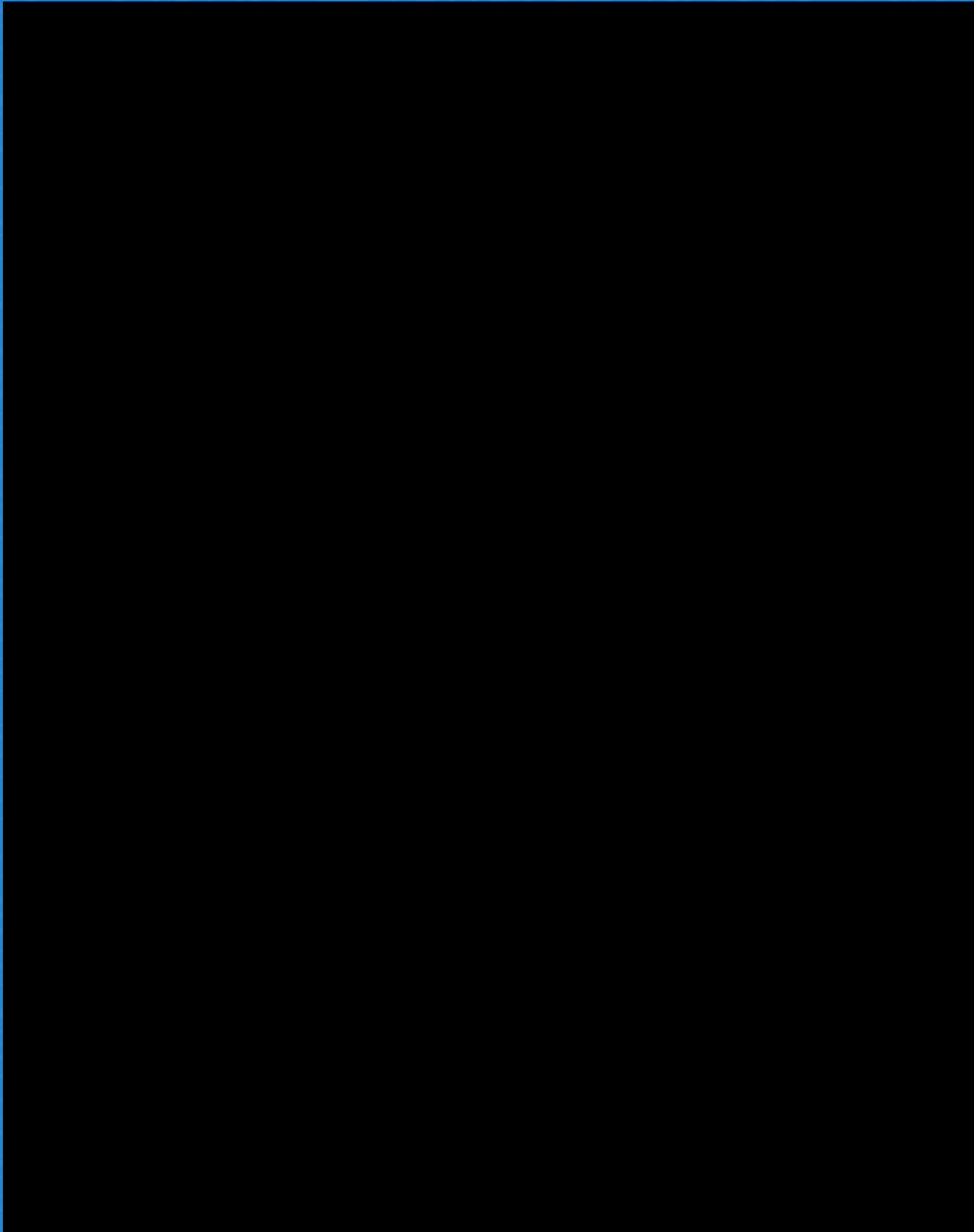


Matthew grew up in Logan just south of Brisbane. After achieving a First Class Honours Degree in Economics at the University of Queensland, Matthew worked at the Productivity Commission where he worked on projects ranging from competition laws, housing affordability and national competition policy. In 2010, Matthew went to work for former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce as his Chief of Staff. At the 2013 election Matthew was elected to the Senate. He took up his position as a Senator in July 2014 and is based in Rockhampton, the first Senator to be based in that city for more than 20 years. As a Senator, Matthew successfully campaigned for greater assistance to families, greater protections for small business and farmers in competition law and helped develop a sugar code of conduct to protect cane growing family farmers. He was appointed Minister for Northern Australia in early 2016 and entered Cabinet in July 2016 when Resources was added to his portfolio responsibilities. He served as Minister for Resources and Northern Australia until February 2020. As Minister, Matthew passionately advocated for the development of nation building projects in Australia's north and the opening up of new resource basins. The Liberal National government has delivered support for dam projects in North Queensland and the opening up of the coal and gas rich Galilee Basin through the Adani project. The Galilee Basin is the first coal basin opened in Australia for more than 50 years. Matthew also helped deliver more gas for Australian consumers through the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism and delivered Australia's first National Resources Statement for 20 years. That statement set Australia's goal to be the best resources nation in the world. He continues to be a strong advocate for the resources industry not only in Queensland, but across all of Australia. Notably, he continues to take a strong stance against net-zero emissions and vaccine mandates. And the right of Australians to be free to express their views without fear of discrimination or retribution. Matthew is a former Lions Youth of the Year and worked as a Leader with the Christian Brothers on Edmund Rice Camps, where he met his wife. They now live in Yeppoon near Rockhampton, with their four sons and daughter.

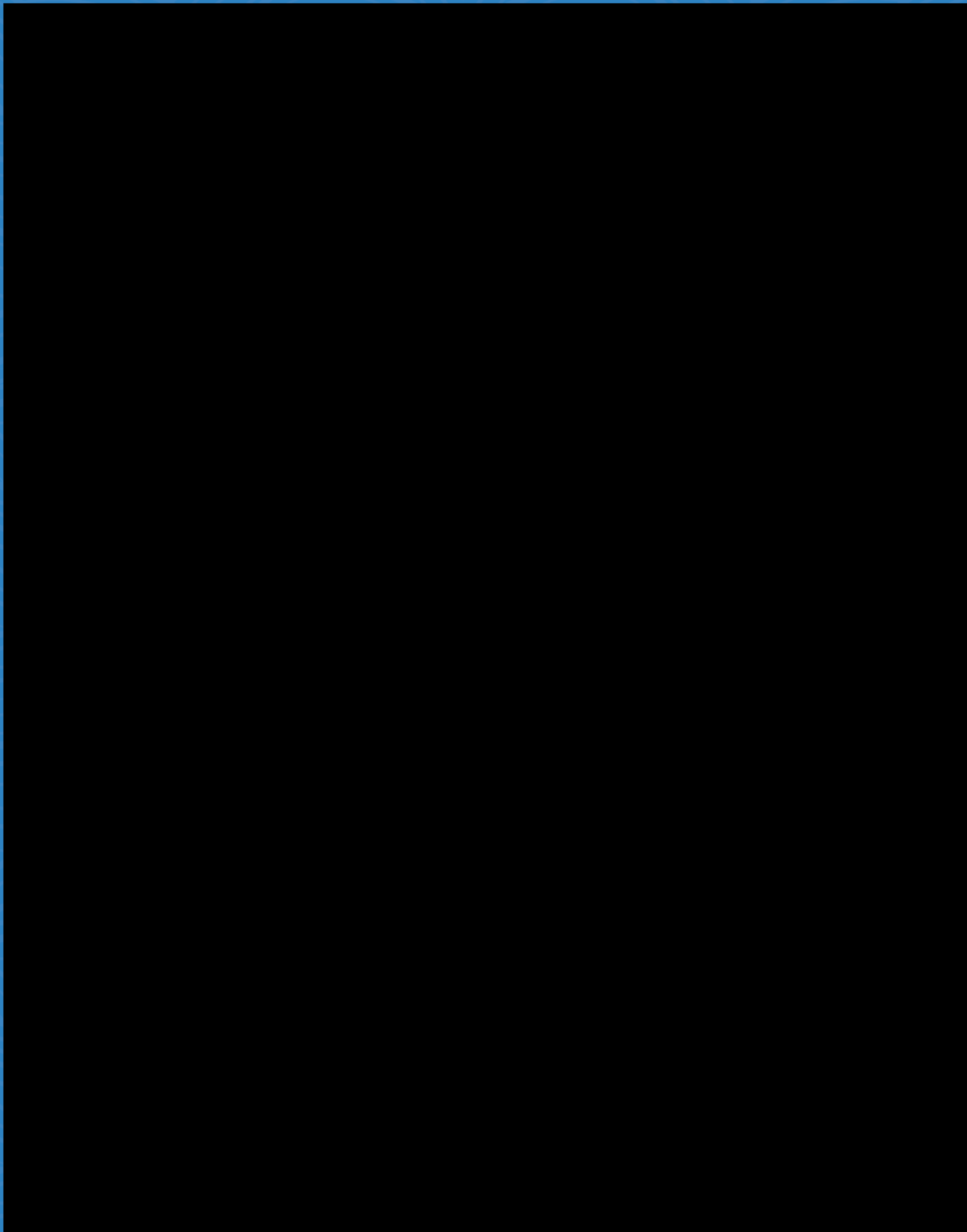
YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



YOUR LATITUDES NORTH 2023 TEAM



RAFFLE DONATIONS

Thank you to the following prize donors:

- [REDACTED] Karma Waters Station
- [REDACTED]
- CBC Staff Selection
- [REDACTED]
- Elite Executive
- La Belle Lash and Beauty and Cairns Beauty Bar
- Senator the Hon James McGrath
- Senator Susan McDonald

SPECIAL THANKS

- [REDACTED] - Prayer
- [REDACTED] - National Anthem
- CBC Staff Selection
- Office of the Hon Warren Entsch MP, Member for Leichhardt
- Office of Senator Susan McDonald, LNP Senator for Queensland
- LNP Far North and Gulf Region Members
- LNP Women Far North and Gulf Region Members
- LNP North Region
- LNP Central Coast Region
- LNP Policy Committee on Northern Development
- LNP Secretariat
- The Benson Hotel, Cairns



***Thank you for attending
Latitudes North 2023.
We appreciate your
support and
contribution to LNP
Northern Policy.
Travel well!***



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

Public hearing & inspections

Meeting Nos. 16-17

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

5.30am – 4.30pm

Inspections, Adelaide Region

Thursday, 20 April 2023

9.00am – 12.40pm

David Spence Room
Town Hall, Adelaide SA

Secretariat contacts



PARLIAMENTARY-IN-CONFIDENCE

Agenda and table of contents

Agenda and table of contents	1
Itinerary	2
Program	4
Terms of Reference.....	5
Inspection notes – 19 April.....	6
The University of Adelaide	9
SA Food Systems Network.....	11
AUSVEG SA	13
Stop Food Waste Australia.....	15
Viterra.....	17


Committee Secretary

5 April 2023

Itinerary

Inquiry into food security in Australia

Public Hearing & Inspections

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Inspection, Adelaide Region

Thursday, 20 April 2023

Public Hearing, David Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall

Time (ACST)	Activity
18 April, Evening	<p>Arrive Adelaide</p> <p>Accommodation required for 2 nights.</p> <p>The secretariat will be staying at:</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 400px; height: 50px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

Time (ACST)	Activity
19 April, 5.30am	<p>Depart Adelaide on inspection tour.</p> <p>The Committee will be travelling by bus provided by the secretariat. It will depart Adina Apartment Hotel Adelaide Treasury, 2 Flinders Street, Adelaide, at 5.30am.</p> <p>Members should make their own way to the point of departure.</p>
6.00am	South Australian Produce Market (1 hour at SAPM; approx. 20 mins to Elizabeth SA).
8.30am	Epicurean Food Group, Elizabeth SA. (45 mins at Epicurean; approx. 20 mins to Virginia SA).
9.45am	Adelaide Plains Food Cluster, Virginia SA (45 mins APFC; approx. 30 mins to Freeling; OR approx. 15 mins to Buckland Park)
10.45am	P'Petual Holdings Buckland Park (45 mins at P'petual; approx. 50 mins to Gumeracha).

Time (ACST)	Activity
12.00pm	Lunch: Uleybury Wines, 719 Uley Road, Uleybury.
2.30pm	Torrens Valley Cherries, Winton Road, Gumeracha (30 minutes at Gumeracha; approx. 50 mins to Adelaide)
4.30pm	Arrive Adelaide. Members return to accommodation. Travel to accommodation – Members' own arrangements. Dinner – Members' own arrangements.

Time (ACST)	Activity
20 April, Morning	Public hearing, Adelaide David Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William St, Adelaide Members should check out of their accommodation. Travel to venue – Members' own arrangements
9.00am	Public hearing commences.
12.40pm	Public hearing concludes. Return to home ports. Travel to airport – Members' own arrangements.

Program

Inquiry into food security in Australia

Public Hearing

Wednesday, 20 April 2023

David Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall

128 King William St, Adelaide

Time (AEDT)	Witness
9.00am	<i>The University of Adelaide (Submission 38)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] Professor of Agricultural Science
9.40am	<i>SA Food Systems Network (Submission 55)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] Representative, SA Food Systems Network • [REDACTED] Chair, Steering Group, Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative • [REDACTED] Representative, SA Food Systems Network
10.20am	MORNING TEA
10.40am	<i>AusVeg SA</i> [REDACTED] CEO
11.20am	<i>Stop Food Waste Australia (Submission 120)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] CEO Fight Food Waste Ltd, Adelaide Division
12.00pm	<i>Viterra (Submission 122)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] CEO Australia and New Zealand • [REDACTED] COO Australia • [REDACTED] Executive and General Counsel
12.40pm	CLOSE

Terms of Reference

Food Security in Australia

The Committee will inquire into and report on strengthening and safeguarding food security in Australia, including examining:

National production, consumption and export of food;

- Access to key inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and labour, and their impact on production costs;
- The impact of supply chain distribution on the cost and availability of food; and
- The potential opportunities and threats of climate change on food production in Australia.

Inspection notes – 19 April

Transport

The secretariat has arranged bus transport for the day's inspections.

Departure is from the Adina Apartment Adelaide Treasury, 2 Flinders Street Adelaide, at 5.30am. The bus charter will conclude at the same location at about 4.30pm.

Meals

Breakfast will be provided as part of the tour of the South Australian Produce Market.

A lunch stop has been arranged at Uleybury Wines. Members will be required to pay for their own meals.

South Australian Produce Market

The South Australian Produce Market (SAPM) is the principal fresh produce wholesale market in South Australia, trading over 250,000 tonnes of fresh produce with a wholesale value of over \$590M between wholesalers, growers and retail operators every year. The market also offers various value add services through its associated businesses including, Crunch Bunch mascots, daily supply and price monitoring, inspection and quality control, banking and credit service facilities, in-store promotion and multi-media advertising, unloading and pallet management.

The market facilities have been planned and constructed to receive, store, trade and distribute highly perishable fresh fruit and vegetables in the most efficient manner available to meet increasing demand locally, nationally and internationally. SAPM also seeks to educate the community through our associated businesses and programs about the health benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables with the objective to increase consumption which ultimately benefits the entire industry.

The committee will be hosted by Angelo Demasi – CEO SAPM.

Epicurean Food Group

The Epicurean Food Group has established Australia's largest exotic mushroom farm and processing facility at the former General Motors Holden site at Elizabeth SA. The \$110 million facility is designed to produce more than 20,000 tonnes of exotic mushrooms and mushroom products each year. The facility is Australia's only vertically integrated mushroom plant and manages all operations in one location – from growing fungi in a lab to turning second-grade and surplus mushrooms into burgers using a high-tech commercial kitchen.

Small-scale production is underway as the first stage of the project comprising six grow rooms nears completion. The facility, when completed, will provide a consistent and valuable supply of locally grown premium mushrooms to supermarkets and restaurants which currently rely heavily on imported stock, with about 85 per cent of Australia's exotic mushroom supply coming from overseas.

Small-scale production is underway, and Epicurean already supplies more than 40 independent retailers across Adelaide, including Foodland. All five stages of the plant are

expected to be finished by the end of 2024. Stage five includes the production of mycoprotein (used in alternative meats) and mycelium (used in leather goods).

The committee will be hosted by [REDACTED] – CEO

Northern Adelaide Plains Food Cluster

The Northern Adelaide Plains Food Region is a premium food production area. The area is suited to intensive horticulture production, with fertile red-brown sandy soils and a Mediterranean climate characterised by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. It produces approximately 200,000 tonnes of fresh produce and over \$300 million in farm gate value annually.

The Northern Adelaide Plains Food Cluster is an industry-led organisation that is driving the strategic direction for the Northern Adelaide Plains, with a focus on increasing profitability and sustainability for local businesses. A formal Governing Council was established in November 2018 following extensive consultation amongst stakeholders. The Governing Council includes industry, industry associations, government representatives, universities and training organisations, but only industry members have voting rights on matters brought to the Council to ensure that all action meets the needs of industry.

The Committee will be hosted by [REDACTED], Cluster Manager, and meet with a selection of growers.

P'Petual Holdings

P'Petual is an industry pioneer in greenhouse farming in Australia and was established in November 1997. They are one of the largest greenhouse vegetable growers in Australia, and grow and market a wide variety of greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants. Their produce is sold nationwide. They operate 12 hectares (120,000m²) of greenhouses utilising the latest specialised equipment, including a Climate Control Computer which controls the environmental factors during growing such as heating, fogging, irrigation, plant nutrition requirements and shading in the greenhouses.

P'Petual also utilises an intensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that uses beneficial bugs and organisms to control pests and stimulate healthy plant growth, minimising the need for releasing pesticides into our environment. They utilise water recycling, by capturing, sterilising and recirculating water not used by plants.

Additionally, P'Petual have invested in a CO₂ capture facility which catches the CO₂ produced from their heating system, thereby reducing carbon emissions. Once the CO₂ is captured, it is piped back into the greenhouse for increased plant growth and production.

The Committee will be hosted by [REDACTED], General Manager.

Torrens Valley Orchards

Torrens Valley Orchards is a family owned and run cherry farm. Their primary location is the Gumeracha district of the Adelaide Hills. They grow 20 varieties of cherries across three locations, providing fruit over a longer ripening season. The operation combines scale and technology to allow rapid grading of fruit, and packing and shipping within 24 hours of picking.

Torrens Valley Orchards produces over 1000 tonnes of cherries each year. They wholesale to Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Foodland, and other major fruit and produce outlets. They export to Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China and the Middle East.

The Committee will be hosted by [REDACTED], General Manager.

The University of Adelaide

9.00am – 9.40am

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of the University of Adelaide is:

- [REDACTED] – Professor of Agricultural Science

Background

The University of Adelaide's [Agrifood and Wine Fame Research Program](#) spans five faculties and focuses its research on agricultural science, in particular plant and animal genetics and management. The program works with food and wine producers and industry to ensure innovations are ready for application and commercialisation across the cycle of agrifood and wine production, processing, and distribution.

Submission Summary

The University of Adelaide's submission ([Submission 38](#)) notes that consumer food preferences are rapidly changing, both globally and domestically. With 70-80% of food production income derived from export sales, food production systems will need to reflect international consumer food preferences, including animal welfare, sustainability and market influence. The submission calls for long-term planning and strategic trend analysis of these elements as essential to negate widespread industry and production shocks. It also highlights supply chain vulnerabilities and emphasises the need for Australia to have more market access to provide greater trade flexibility to deal with supply shocks and reduce input costs.

The submission notes the effects of climate change altering the landscape in the years ahead and the challenges primary producers will face adapting their practices to changing conditions. The submission emphasises the pivotal role researchers play in assisting primary producers through research, development and extension services.

The University of Adelaide's submission provides more details of additional opportunities and threats that must be considered in the context of the effect of changing climate on food security including:

- futureproofing through systems thinking and multidisciplinary efforts;
- advancement in understanding cause and effect relations;
- localised solutions;
- models to map between climate, production outcomes and key decision levers;
- building in resilience as a performance metric; and
- assisting the transition.

Possible questions

Production, consumption and export of food

1. Your submission notes that 'domestic production and consumption remains secondary to many industries'. What are the implications of that for food security in Australia?
2. What are the potential impacts on producers of changing commercial and consumer expectations around animal welfare and environmental sustainability?
3. Can we justify supporting the local production of key agricultural inputs in the face of increased uncertainty of supply and rising costs?
4. Are Australia's biosecurity settings appropriate, or do the costs outweigh the benefits?
5. Your submission calls for long term planning and strategic trend analysis to negate industry and production shocks. Who should be involved in the planning?
 - What should the planning and analysis encompass?

Supply chain costs and impacts

6. How will greater market access reduce input costs while increasing export opportunities?
 - What are the implications for domestic food security?
7. Do we have sufficient redundancy in the supply chain to withstand short-term shocks and ensure long-term stability of the food system?
8. Is localised production and distribution part of building resilience in the supply chain?

Opportunities and threats of climate change

9. Your submission highlights the importance of research, development and extension (RDE). Are we investing enough in RDE?
 - How do we ensure research and development is leading to greater productivity and more sustainable production?
10. How can technology assist in developing production and supply chain resilience in the face of climate change?

SA Food Systems Network

9.40am – 10.20am

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of the SA Food Systems Network are:

- [REDACTED] – Representative, SA Food Systems Network
- [REDACTED] – Chair, Steering Group, Onkaparinga Food Security Collaborative
- [REDACTED] – Representative, SA Food Systems Network

Background

The Food Systems Network is a network of South Australian local and state government representatives and community organisations working together to improve:

- investment to embed food systems policy in government strategies.
- food system literacy and advocacy amongst decision makers (councillors, leaders, and communities); and
- community capacity to advocate for food systems priorities

Submission Summary

SA Food Systems Network's submission ([Submission 55](#)) notes several issues of concern for food systems highlighting, amongst others, the governance and economics of food production. The submission notes that governance of food systems is the most interconnected policy issue for any government, intersecting with many policy areas of various portfolios. The submission calls for an integrated and coordinated approach from all levels of government and stakeholders to lead and inform reforms, policies and programs.

The submission notes there is currently no consistent way to measure food security in Australia, or benchmarks for measuring improvement. It recommends a comprehensive set of questions, utilising the [18 item Household Food Insecurity Survey](#) to be administered nationally.

The submission highlights food supply chain vulnerabilities and notes the external shocks and drivers increasing the cost of food production, distribution and retail food supply. It emphasises the need for investment into a food fund to encourage food initiatives on a domestic and local community scale.

The SA Food Systems Network also highlights the effect climate change has on food systems and calls for:

- further funding for research and implementation of soil restoration and regenerative agricultural practices;
- the promotion of urban and peri urban farming; and
- a national food policy that addresses production and packaging regulations relating to food production and distribution.

SA Food Systems Network recommends:

- The establishment of a National Food Policy with a focus on equity and sustainability;
- A national standardised approach to food security data collection;
- Investing in strengthened local food systems to reduce the cost of living and food insecurity; and.
- Investing in regenerative agriculture to adapt to climate change.

Possible questions

1. Your submission calls for the development of a National Food Policy with a focus on equity and sustainability. What factors need to be considered to focus the policy on equity and sustainability?
2. You have recommended a national standardised approach to food security data collection. How would this improve food security in Australia?
3. Could you expand on how investing in strengthening local food systems will reduce the cost of living and food insecurity?
 - Are there any active examples?
4. You recommend promoting urban and peri-urban farming through investment and incentives. What are the benefits of doing this?
5. How can we improve food literacy across the nation?
6. What are the costs and benefits of regenerative agriculture?
 - Can you give examples of regenerative agriculture in practice?
7. What are the costs and benefits of reducing agricultural chemical use?
8. Is there anything you would like to raise that the Committee may have missed?

AUSVEG SA

10.40am – 11.20am

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of the AUSVEG SA is:

- [REDACTED] – CEO

Background

Established in 2014, [AUSVEG SA](#) is the state peak body for South Australia's vegetable industry. It plays an advocacy role with all levels of government, as well as delivering industry development programs. It is funded by member contributions, corporate partnerships and services agreements for project delivery rather than commodity or industry levies.

Organisation summary

South Australia's vegetable growers contribute over \$2 billion to the state economy each year. The five commodities producing the greatest value in South Australia are mushrooms, lettuces, onions, carrots and potatoes, although a range of other vegetables also contribute, including brassicas, cucurbits, and capsicums and chilies. The Northern Adelaide Plains are well suited to intensive vegetable production. The Limestone Coast and Mallee are known for the production of root vegetables.

AUSVEG SA provides a voice to government on behalf of the vegetable industry on issues as diverse as flood mitigation, water access, biosecurity and rate relief. In addition to its advocacy work, AUSVEG SA runs programs targeted at R&D and building business capacity; raising awareness of farm hygiene and biosecurity issues; and the application of technology and automation to vegetable production and packing.

Possible questions

Vegetable growing SA

1. How does the vegetable industry in South Australia contribute to state and national food security?
2. What are the main challenges facing the vegetable industry in South Australia?
3. How vulnerable is the vegetable industry to climate change?
4. How have technology and innovation contributed to the productivity and resilience of the vegetable industry?
5. What opportunities are there for industry growth in the future?
6. How vulnerable is the industry to urban encroachment?

Supply chain issues

7. How has the vegetable growing industry in South Australia been impacted by the supply and cost of fertiliser, fuel and electricity?
8. Has the vegetable industry been impacted by transport disruptions and pallet shortages?
9. Would you support greater domestic production of horticultural inputs, even if that meant increased costs and prices?
10. How resilient is the paddock to plate supply chain of the vegetable industry in South Australia?
11. Do vegetable growers have issues with the major retailers?

Labour

12. What are the main challenges for the vegetable industry in accessing and holding onto labour?
13. What do you see as the best solutions to labour shortages in the vegetable industry?

Biosecurity

14. What are the main biosecurity threats to the vegetable industry in South Australia?
15. How successful have governments and industry been in managing those threats?
16. What are the potential implications of a disease outbreak on vegetable production and supply?

Stop Food Waste Australia

11.20am – 12.00pm

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of Stop Food Waste Australia is:

- [REDACTED] – CEO, Fight Food Waste Ltd, Adelaide Div.

Background

Fight Food Waste Limited comprises two divisions: the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and Stop Food Waste Australia (SWFA). The Fight Food Waste CRC aims to improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of the Australian food industry. Its research partners and industry participants undertake research to solve industry-identified problems through outcome-focused collaborative partnerships. Established in January 2021, with funding from the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, SFWA is a partnership of organisations who operate along the food supply chain that are committed to reducing Australia's food waste by half by 2030. It includes federal, state, and local governments, the agri-food industry and the four major food rescue charities.

Submission summary

The submission ([Submission 120](#)) highlights the extent and cost of food waste in Australia. It notes that each year, 7.6 million tonnes of food is lost or wasted in Australia with an economic cost of \$36.6 billion. The environmental impact of this waste translates to 3.5% of national GHG emissions, increases the water footprint of every Australian by 170% and utilises a landmass greater than Victoria to grow food that is then wasted.

To counteract waste, SWFA has delivered the Australian Food Pact, 'a voluntary agreement program bringing businesses together in pre-competitive collaboration to help make Australia's food system more competitive, sustainable, resilient, and circular'. In addition, it is developing Sector Action Plans. Each plan 'is co-designed with the key stakeholders most able to influence the root cause(s) of food waste hotspots and to take action to reduce food waste in the value chain'.

The submission recommends:

- The development of 'a national comprehensive Food Strategy; addressing the food system as a whole';
- National reviews of food waste in 2024 and 2027, based on the National Food Waste Strategy Feasibility Study (FIAL, 2021) baseline methodology; and
- Removing regulatory barriers to improving food utilisation and access, including reviewing national competition law and implementing tax incentives for the donation of food and related services.

Possible questions

Food waste

1. What are the causes and cost of food waste in Australia?
2. Could you explain to the Committee how the Australian Food Pact operates and the benefits it delivers?
 - Does the Food Pact provide a model that could be implemented by governments?
3. What are Food Waste Action Plans?
4. What are Sector Action Plans?
 - How will Sector Action Plans reduce food waste and increase food security?

Food strategy

5. Your submission calls for the development of a national comprehensive food strategy. What do you see as the essential features of such a strategy?
6. What do you see as the weakest or most vulnerable parts of the food supply chain?
 - What requires immediate attention?

Regulation

7. Your submission calls for a review and update of national competition law. What changes do you specifically wish to see?
8. How will changing competition law and fair-trading practices improve food security and reduce food waste?
9. Your submission calls for implementation of tax incentives to support food donations and fight food waste. How would these tax incentives operate and what are they likely to cost?
 - How would they promote food security?

Viterra

12.00pm – 12.40pm

Witnesses

Appearing on behalf of Viterra are:

- [REDACTED] – CEO Australia and New Zealand
- [REDACTED] – COO Australia
- [REDACTED] – Executive and General Counsel

Background

[Viterra](#) is an integrated supply chain business, involved in the growing, storage, handling, transport and marketing of a range of agricultural products, including grains, oilseeds, pulses and cotton. Its storage and handling network includes sites and terminals covering growing regions in western Victoria and South Australia. Viterra is also a major importer of protein meals, supplying feed manufacturers and consumers. Viterra owns six port terminals in South Australia and has a storage capacity of 10 million tonnes.

Submission summary

Viterra's submission ([Submission 122](#)) highlights:

- The importance of an efficient rail system for the grain supply chain;
- Excessive port capacity creating inefficiencies and increasing costs of exporting grain; and
- Grain supply chain regulation creating inefficiencies.

Viterra's submission notes the impacts of moving grain from rail to road on the Eyre Peninsula due to the poor condition of the existing rail network. While road transport is cheaper than the existing rail network, it has suffered from weather-related disruptions. Viterra argues that 'an efficient and effective rail system with the appropriate configuration, speed and load bearing capability will increase the efficiency of the grain supply chain on Eyre Peninsula'.

The submission also notes that the doubling of grain ports on the Eyre Peninsula means that export capacity is now double average annual grain production. In Viterra's view, this 'underutilised capacity results in overall increased costs per tonne'. It argues that 'any funding would be better spent on improving the efficiency of existing grain handling infrastructure and revitalising rail.'

The submission criticises the Mandatory Port Code, and particularly its uneven application across Australia. Viterra argues that 'the Code impacts disproportionately on South Australia, distorting both competition and investment. Viterra recommends the removal of the Mandatory Port Code.'

Possible questions

Grain industry

1. From your perspective, how healthy is the grains industry in South Australia and Australia more widely?
2. What threats do you see to the continued production and distribution of the commodities you deal in?
3. What impacts are the cost and limited availability of fuel and fertilisers having on your operations and that of your growers?
4. What threats to your industry do you see from climate change?

Transport infrastructure

5. Your submission notes the deterioration of the rail network on the Eyre Peninsula. How did this come about?
6. What impacts has the switch from rail to road had on the cost and reliability of grain handling?
7. If road transport is cheaper, why do we need to switch back to rail?
8. Do we need greater investment and diversification in transport infrastructure?
9. Your submission highlights excessive port capacity on the Eyre Peninsula. How has this come about and why is it causing problems?
 - Given the variability in volumes from season to season, how do we ensure that grain handling capacity is 'just right'?

Mandatory Port Code

10. Could you explain what the Mandatory Port Code is designed to do and why it was brought into operation?
11. From your perspective, what are the problems with the Code?
12. What would be the effect of removing the Mandatory Port Code?

PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS 2023

(Issued 1 December 2022)

	MONTH	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun	School Holidays
AUTUMN	January						1	
		2	3	4	5	6	7/8	
		9	10	11	12	13	14/15	
		16	17	18	19	20	21/22	
		23	24	25	26 <i>Australia Day</i>	27	28/29	NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA, WA, NT
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5	TAS
	February	6	7	8 <	9	10	11/12	
		13 H/SBE	14 H/SBE	15 H/SBE	16 H/SBE	17 SBE	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25/26	
		27	28	1	2	3	4/5	
	March	6 WA	7	8	9	10	11/12	
		13 ACT, TAS, VIC	14	15	16	17	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24 S <	25/26	
		27	28	29	30	31	1/2	
	April	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Good Friday</i>	8/9	QLD
		10 <i>Easter Monday</i>	11	12	13	14	15/16	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, WA, NT, TAS
		17	18	19	20	21	22/23	NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA, WA
		24	25 <i>ANZAC Day</i>	26	27	28	29/30	SA
WINTER	May	1 NT, QLD	2	3	4	5	6/7	
		8	9 Budget	10 <	11	12	13/14	
		15	16	17	18	19	20/21	
		22 H/BE	23 H/BE	24 H/BE	25 H/BE	26 BE	27/28	
		29 ACT	30 H/BE	31 H/BE	1 H/BE	2 BE	3/4	
	June	5 WA	6	7	8	9	10/11	
		12 ACT, NSW, NT, SA, VIC	13	14	15	16 S	17/18	
		19	20 <	21	22	23	24/25	
		26	27	28	29	30	1/2	QLD, NT, VIC
		3	4	5	6	7 NT	8/9	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, NT, WA
	July	10	11	12	13	14	15/16	NSW, ACT, TAS, SA, WA, NT
		17	18	19	20	21	22/23	SA
		24	25	26	27	28	29/30	
		31	1	2	3	4	5/6	
		7	8 <	9	10	11	12/13	
	August	14	15	16	17	18	19/20	
		21	22	23	24	25	26/27	
		28	29	30	31	1	2/3	
		4	5	6	7	8	9/10	
		11	12 <	13	14	15	16/17	
	September	18	19	20	21	22	23/24	QLD, VIC
		25 WA	26	27	28	29	30/1	QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, WA, NT
		2 ACT, NSW, SA, QLD	3	4	5	6	7/8	TAS, SA, NSW, WA, NT, ACT
		9	10	11	12	13	14/15	SA, TAS
		16	17	18	19	20	21/22	
SPRING	October	23 H/SBE	24 H/SBE	25 H/SBE	26 H/SBE	27 SBE	28/29	
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5	
		6 S	7 S VIC	8 S	9 S	10 S	11/12	
		13	14	15	16	17 S	18/19	
		20	21	22	23	24	25/26	
	November	27 <	28	29	30	1	2/3	
		4 S	5 S	6 S	7 S	8	9/10	
		11	12	13	14	15	16/17	
		18	19	20	21	22	23/24	
		25	26	27	28	29	30/31	
	December							

Both Houses

H = HoR only

S = Senate Only

Public Holiday

BE = Budget Estimates

SBE = Supplementary Budget Estimates

< = date of Senate 2/3 cut-off