



# GLOBAL MARKET INSIGHTS SEMINAR:

Vietnam // Thursday 2 December // 3pm - 4pm AEDT

## PANELLISTS BIO INFORMATION



### **Ms Cristina Talacko (MC)**

Founder, SalDoce Fine Foods, and ECA Board Member

Cristina Talacko is an entrepreneur, owner and founder of SalDoce Fine Foods manufacturing and exporting allergen sensitive foods, and owner of retail organic bulk food stores Naked Foods Northbridge and Indooroopilly promoting zero waste lifestyle. She has a corporate legal background with more than 15 years' experience in executive boards and management of not-for-profit associations.

She is the Vice-President of the Australia-Brazil Chamber of Commerce, the Chairperson of the environmental NFP Coalition for Conservation, a director on the board of the think tank Beyond Zero Emissions and is involved in community work as a director of One Meal - It Makes a Difference, a charity providing meals to the homeless.

She has won the Highly Commended 2019 Premier's Award for Women in International Business and completed the Business Program "Women and Power" at Harvard Kennedy Business School. She graduated from the University of London with an LLB - Bachelor of Law, and a Diploma in Corporate Law at the University of Sydney.

Cristina is also the former Vice Chair of the Australia Latin America Business Council and former director of the DFAT Council on Latin America Relations.



### **Ms Robyn Mudie**

Ambassador to Vietnam, Australian Embassy, Hanoi

Ms Mudie is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently the founding Executive Director of the Diplomatic Academy. She has previously served overseas as Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives; Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Geneva); First Secretary, UN Permanent Mission, New York; and Second Secretary, Hanoi. In Canberra Ms Mudie has served as Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy Branch; Assistant Secretary, Information Resources Branch; and Director, Strategic Policy Section.

Ms Mudie holds a Master of Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Hull; Bachelor of Arts (Honours), from the University of Adelaide; and a Graduate Diploma (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from the Australian National University. Ms Mudie is a Vietnamese speaker who has studied Vietnamese at the RAAF School of Languages (1992), the Foreign Languages School, Hanoi (1993) and the Diplomatic Academy (2019).



### **Ms Rebecca Ball**

Senior Trade Commissioner, Australian Consulate-General, Ho Chi Minh City

Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Rebecca leads the Austrade Vietnam team which is focused on growing Australia's trade, investment and education relationship with Vietnam and Cambodia.

Rebecca Ball commenced her posting to Vietnam in February 2021, returning to the market after first working in Ho Chi Minh City in 2000. Prior to her current role, Rebecca was the Executive Director, Invest and Trade Western Australia. Previous leadership roles include A/CEO South West Development Commission, Western Australian Government and Austrade Trade Commissioner roles in Jakarta and New Delhi.

Prior to joining government Rebecca held private sector business development and marketing roles in multilateral consulting and the wine, seafood, tourism, education and training sectors.

Rebecca holds a Master of Business in Tourism Development from Victoria University and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours), from the University of Western Australia.



### **Mr Brian Newton**

Head of Sales, Woolworths International

Brian Newton heads Woolworths International's sales team based in Sydney, Australia. Woolworths is Australia's largest retailer with over 3000 stores selling food and general merchandise.

Brian was one of the founding members of Woolworths International in 2015 and has been key to its success in establishing partnerships with retailers across the Pacific, China and SE Asia to offer Woolworths own brand products to overseas customers.

Brian joined Woolworths in 2008 to help establish Woolworths Global Sourcing before holding positions in Strategy and Fresh Food

Prior to Woolworths, Brian spent 15 years with UK retailer, Kingfisher, in Strategy, e-commerce and global sourcing roles including running the company's sourcing operations in South Africa for three years



### **Mr Wade Bollard**

State Manager, C.T. Freight

Wade Bollard is the NSW State Manager for C. T. Freight, Australia's leading independent air and sea freight forwarder.

Wade has been with C. T. Freight in Sydney for over 27 years, predominantly looking after export business with a heavy focus on the perishable and food and beverage sectors. During this time, Wade has been involved in getting many exporters into new markets throughout the world and has a good understanding of what exporters need to do in preparation for their entry to these new markets.

With a great passion for seeing exporters harness their true potential, Wade has taken great pride in assisting many expand their footprint over the years and is always looking for new opportunities for Australian exporters. Wade has also visited Vietnam in the past and has a thorough knowledge of the market.