



# GLOBAL MARKET INSIGHTS SEMINAR:

Thailand // Thursday 17 February // 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.



### **Mr Allan McKinnon**

Ambassador to Thailand, Australian Embassy, Bangkok

Mr McKinnon is a senior career officer with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) and was most recently Deputy Secretary. He has previously served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission and before this, Counsellor, Australian Embassy, Tokyo. In Australia, he has served as Deputy National Security Adviser, PMC; Deputy Commander, Joint Agency Task Force - Operation Sovereign Borders; First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); First Assistant Secretary, Diplomatic Security, Information Management and Services Division, DFAT; First Assistant Secretary, Corporate Management Division, DFAT; and Adviser, Office of the Trade Minister.

Mr McKinnon holds a Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) and a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from the Australian National University and a Diploma in Law from the Legal Practitioners Board.



### **Mr Michael Helleman**

Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner,  
Australian Consulate-General, Bangkok

Michael leads the Austrade team in Bangkok which is focused on growing Australia's trade, investment and education relationship with Thailand, a top 10 trading partner for Australia, and Laos. He has extensive experience working with a diverse range of Australian exporters and with investors from North Asia, ASEAN, Europe, and North America. His previous assignments include leading Austrade's Infrastructure and Energy teams (based in Sydney), and as a Trade Commissioner in Jakarta.

Prior to joining Austrade, Michael worked in the NSW Premier's Office and at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including three years in Kuala Lumpur. Michael started his career at law firm Allens Arthur Robinson, after graduating from Sydney University with First Class Honours in Arts and Law.



### **Mr Vinod Tiwari**

Global Head of Business Development and Partnerships, Powerledger

Based in Perth, Vinod leads Powerledger's global business expansion team, establishing partnerships to leverage its blockchain technology for transactive grid including spinning up local marketplaces for energy trading, grid flexibility trading and environmental commodities trading. Vinod is a thought leader and an energy sector specialist with over two decades of experience in strategy, policy, commercial & business development across the supply chain, and a focus on orderly decarbonisation and transformation of energy markets through the integration of Distributed Energy Resources and new technology. Vinod is also a fellow of International Blockchain Climate Institute and has presented extensively on democratisation of energy around the world including Capitol Hill and UN events in the past.

Vinod is an electrical engineer by trade and has held many senior executive roles internationally, including working for GE, Perth Energy, Future Effect and has been actively involved in Powerledger's global business development for over 4 years.



### **Mr Tony Pearson**

Chief Executive Officer, A.H. Beard

As a seasoned operational business Executive, Tony has held various senior-level roles in international and domestic organisations across a number of sectors before joining A.H. Beard as the Chief Executive Officer in 2016.

Tony brings a long career in both direct operations and consulting to his role as CEO across the Manufacturing, Professional Services, IT, Telco, Retail, Hospitality, FMCG and Government sectors where his remit has been to realign business objectives to drive improved outcomes from frontline to boardroom.

Highly respected within the industry for his operational expertise, and with a track record for building quality organisations that succeed, Tony's career has spanned Executive Leadership, Business Management and Organisational Development for more than 27 years in direct operations.