

AUSTRALASIAN GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE



GROUNDWATER FUTURES SCIENCE TO PRACTICE
11-13TH JULY 2017 UNSW, SYDNEY

Panellist: Social License to Operate

Mr. Jim McDonald



Jim McDonald farms near Quirindi in the Liverpool Plains of Northern NSW. Understanding and mitigating the risks to the long term maintenance of the soils, water, and natural resources that support his agricultural business, local environment and community have inspired his interests and study. Currently a member of the CSIRO Land and Water Flagship Advisory Committee.

Jim has Graduate Certificates in Environmental Science and the Management and Planning of Natural Hazards and is currently studying for his Masters, all at UNE. Jim is a past member of the Federal Independent Expert Scientific Committee for Coal Seam Gas and large scale Coal Mining.

As the inaugural Chairman of the Namoi Catchment Management Authority Jim was instrumental in providing formative strategic thinking and catchment scale planning based on resilience practice (building capacity to absorb disturbance and maintain function). In response to an expanding coal and CSG energy extraction industry in the Namoi Valley Jim initiated the development of a cumulative risk assessment framework for energy extraction impacts on the Namoi Valley catchment assets and landscape processes. This framework assessed the risks to the environmental, social and system maintenance thresholds substantiated during the resilience assessment.