

Candidate Statement for the Role of AARES President-elect

Dr Peggy Schrobback

About Me

I am an agricultural and food systems economist, currently serving as a Senior Research Scientist at Australia's national research agency, CSIRO. My research spans the supply, distribution, and demand of livestock, horticulture, fisheries, and aquaculture products. This includes both quantitative and qualitative analyses—ranging from productivity and efficiency assessments to market and supply chain analysis, consumer preferences, and adoption of farming practices. While much of my work focuses on Australia, I have also contributed to projects in Ethiopia and Indonesia.



A core value in my research is impact. I strive to ensure that my work informs decision-making by industry organisations and policymakers. This often involves close collaboration and co-production with stakeholders to ensure relevance and usability of my work.

In my current role, I lead a team of seven and supervise students in their research. I find great satisfaction in continuous learning—whether through new insights into agriculture and food systems, or through evolving methods, software, and technologies. I also deeply value the human side of my work: building relationships, mentoring, and supporting others in their professional growth.

My Past and Current Involvement in AARES

I have been a member of AARES since 2008 and have actively contributed to its growth and community. My service includes roles as Queensland Councillor (2016–2020) and President of the Queensland Branch (2020–present).

As part of my leadership within the Queensland Branch, I coordinate a regular mini-symposia series in collaboration with the Branch Committee. This initiative has grown in popularity in time, attracting both long-standing AARES members and new participants, and has become a valuable platform for sharing research, fostering discussion, and strengthening professional connections.

I have also played key roles in organising the 2017 and 2025 AARES Annual Conferences. For the recent Brisbane conference, I was involved in venue selection, sponsorship coordination, budgeting and financial planning, and developed the conference's first comprehensive marketing plan.

What I value most about AARES is its people—the network of professionals who share a passion for agricultural, environmental and resource economics. Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting and working with many inspiring individuals. Some have become long-term collaborators, others helped me find career opportunities after completing my PhD, and many have become close friends. In a professional environment that can often be highly competitive, I consider this sense of collegiality and support truly unique and one of AARES's greatest strengths.

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Ambition as AARES President-elect

I am motivated to serve as AARES President-elect by a deep commitment to the Society's mission of advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration in agricultural, environmental and resource economics. Over the years, AARES has been instrumental in shaping my professional journey—providing a platform for intellectual exchange, career development, and enduring friendships. I am passionate about giving back to this community and helping it thrive in a rapidly evolving research and policy landscape.

As President-elect, I aim to strengthen member engagement across disciplines, sectors, and regions; support early career researchers and women in economics; and ensure our annual conference continues to be a dynamic and inclusive space for sharing ideas. I bring a collaborative leadership style, strategic thinking, and a strong track record of service to AARES. I am excited about the opportunity to help guide the Society's future and ensure it remains a vibrant, relevant, and supportive professional home for all its members.