



Forecasting Conference
Outlook for markets, policy and politics

Wednesday 13 February 2019
Reserve Bank of Australia, 65 Martin Place, Sydney

07:15 **Registration opens** – light breakfast served

07:45 **Welcome and introduction**

Mr Stephen Walters, Chair, Australian Business Economists
& Chief Economist, New South Wales Government

07:50 **Statement on monetary policy - Observations**

Dr Alexandra Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia

08:20 **Outlook for the economy and financial markets** – Panel discussion

Moderated by Ms Elysse Morgan, Business & Finance, Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Ms Besa Deda, Chief Economist, St George Bank

Mr Ben Jarman, Senior Economist & Executive Director, J.P. Morgan

Mr Stephen Halmarick, Managing Director & Head of Global Markets Research, Commonwealth Bank

Mr Tony Morriss, Head of AUD/NZ Economics & Rates Strategy, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

08:50 **Rising inequality? A stocktake of the evidence**

Mr Jonathan Coppel, Commissioner, Productivity Commission
in conversation with

Mr Michael Willesee, Senior Communications Manager, Westpac
& former journalist/presenter *The Australian*, Nine and Sky

09:20 **The outlook for politics and government**

Mr Matt Wade, Senior Journalist, *The Sydney Morning Herald*

09:50 **Summary**

Mr Stephen Walters, Chair, Australian Business Economists

10:00 **Close**



Please note: AFMA accredited individuals can claim up to a maximum of three hours of continuing education based on their attendance at the conference. Exact hours depend upon relevance to each individual's job role and can be determined by checking with your AFMA accreditation representative.

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Dr Alexandra Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia

Alexandra Heath is currently the Head of Economic Analysis Department at the Reserve Bank of Australia. She has also held senior management positions in the Economic Research, Domestic Markets and International Departments. She was seconded to the Bank for International Settlements in Basel Switzerland from 2005 to 2008 and had held a number of positions within Economic Group prior to this. She has worked on a variety of topic areas including macroeconomic forecasting, labour market dynamics, financial markets and global imbalances. Dr Heath holds a PhD and MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and a BEc (Hons) from the University of Sydney.

Elysse Morgan, Business & Finance, Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Elysse Morgan is host of the ABC's leading business programs, including The Business on ABC television, Business PM on radio and regularly writes news and analysis for ABC online. Elysse has won awards and accolades for her interviewing and reporting in her roles at the ABC where she started as a cadet rural reporter. Elysse had stints in far flung regions including Port Pirie in South Australia, before hosting The Country Hour, where her interviews and stories contributed to bring down a state minister. Elysse used her specialist business and finance knowledge to move into the role of executive producer of Business Today in Sydney, before taking over the ABC's national finance round, where she became a familiar voice on RN Breakfast, The World Today, PM and television news and reported for 7.30. In 2015 Elysse was appointed co-host of The Business, before taking over the role in 2017.

Besa Deda

Besa Deda is the Chief Economist of the St.George Banking Group, which includes St.George, Bank of Melbourne, BankSA and RAMS. Besa has been in this role since 2008. As the Bank's economic spokesperson, Besa is responsible for research on the economy and financial markets. She formulates views and forecasts on the outlook for the economy, interest rates and currencies and manages a team of economists. Besa give regular presentations and often appears in the media reporting on economic conditions. Prior to this role, Besa held Senior Strategist and Economist roles with the Commonwealth Bank covering fixed income, foreign exchange, macroeconomics and equities. Besa was with the CBA for nearly 8 years and before that was an economist with the Colonial Group. Besa is the Secretary for the Australian Business Economists' Association, and has previously written a regular property column for The Australian newspaper and lectured for FINSIA (now known as Kaplan).

Ben Jarman, Senior Economist & Executive Director, J.P. Morgan

Ben Jarman is a Senior Economist at J.P. Morgan, having joined the firm in January 2009. He contributes economic, fixed income, and FX strategy analysis for Australia and New Zealand. Ben has a BComm (Hons I) and a PhD in Economics from the University of Sydney, as well as a BSc (Math., Hons) from the University of London. His PhD dissertation won the Walter Noel Gillies Award for best Economics PhD at the University of Sydney.

Stephen Halmarick, Managing Director & Head of Global Markets Research, CBA

Stephen Halmarick is Managing Director and Head of Global Markets Research at Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) – the largest financial services company in Australia. He was appointed to the role in January 2018. As Head of Global Markets Research, Stephen is responsible for the team of economists and strategists that cover Australian Economics, International Economics, Rates, Fixed Income, Foreign Exchange, Credit and Commodities research. Stephen has over 30 years' experience as a financial markets economist and is widely regarded as one of the best economic communicators and presenters in Australia. Prior to his current role in CBA, Stephen was Chief Economist for Colonial First State Global Asset Management (the wealth management arm of CBA) from March 2009 to September 2017. Earlier in his career, Stephen worked for Westpac, SBC Australia, the Nomura Research Institute and from 1994-2009 the Salomon Smith Barney Citibank group, where he held the title of Managing Director and Co-Head of Economic and Market Analysis. Stephen holds a Bachelor of Economics from Macquarie University, a graduate diploma from the Securities Institute of Australia (SIA) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

Tony Morriss, Head of AUD/NZ Economics & Rates Strategy, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Tony Morriss is a Director and Head of AU and NZ Economics and Rates Strategy. He is responsible for the analysis and forecasts of the economy and direction of interest rates and represents the bank's views in the media. He joined BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research in 2014. He was previously Global Head of Interest Rate Research at ANZ. Prior to that, he was Senior Economist at New South Wales Treasury Corporation; Market Strategist at Bankers Trust Australia and Managing Analyst Asia for Thomson Financial. He has a Master's Degree in Government from The College of William & Mary and a BA in Economics & Politics from Exeter University in the UK.

Michael Willesee, Senior Communications Manager, Westpac

Michael Willesee has been a journalist for more than 25 years. He began his career at The Australian newspaper before moving into television. Following stints in Los Angeles and New York he joined the Nine Network reporting for National Nine News and A Current Affair. Next, Michael moved to Sky News where he anchored prime-time bulletins as well as hosting major live events. Michael served as media adviser to Joe Hockey during his time as Federal Treasurer, and is now in a senior media advisory role at Westpac.

Jonathan Coppel, Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Jonathan Coppel is a Commissioner at the Productivity Commission. Jonathan is an economist with extensive international and domestic experience advising governments on macroeconomic, investment, energy, social, environmental and regulatory policy. Previously, Jonathan was Head of the OECD G20 Sherpa office. During his OECD career he held senior roles as Counsellor to the Chief Economist, Executive Manager of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, Head of the EU and UK Desks and analyst at the International Energy Agency. In Australia he has held senior management positions at the Reserve Bank and started

his career at the Commonwealth Treasury. Jonathan has taught economics at the World Trade Institute's Mile Masters Programme in International Law and Economics and the Paris, Sciences Po Institute. While overseas he established and was a director of Cafe Oz, the first Australian bar in Paris. Jonathan has a Masters in Economics and Management from Columbia University, a Bachelor in Economics (Honours) from the Australian National University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Matt Wade, Senior Journalist, *The Sydney Morning Herald*

Matt Wade is a senior reporter and columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age where he writes about economics, politics and demography. He was based in India as a foreign correspondent for The Herald and The Age between 2007 and 2011 and has a long term interest in international development. Matt has previously worked in the Canberra Press Gallery as The Herald's Economics Correspondent and has covered consumer affairs and financial markets.