

8 September 2025
Hilton Sydney and Virtual



2025 Governance Leadership Conference

Leading purposefully through global headwinds



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Leading purposefully through global headwinds

Extreme shifts in geopolitics are impacting all else – economic, governmental, societal and business landscapes. The critical focus is on LEADERSHIP. We need great leaders – to navigate ongoing turmoil and disruption, manage the challenge for talent, and stay adaptable while actively canvassing the opportunities for growth and innovation.

The question then is:

- What will you do as leaders?
- What will define the role, vision, and directions for leadership?
- What will be the anchors for strategy, action and performance?
- How will your governance thinking stay steady and purposeful amidst polarising debates?
- Join us at the Governance Leadership Conference as we bring together renowned leaders from across sectors, from Australia and overseas, to discuss the challenge of collaboratively shaping future-fit organisations.

Our panel of speakers will look at:

- How has the idea of leadership evolved — from authority to service to collaboration.
- The urgency for collaborative leadership for systemic change — deep change, greater impact.
- Changes to organisational structures as the stakeholders and geographies of organisations change and expand.
- People-centric strategies and culture – culture is challenging, and rebuilding trust is the challenge.
- How leaders look beyond what they are given to look at what more the organisation can be.
- It is no longer about resilience alone – it is about adaptability and knowing when to adapt.
- Board focus amidst upheaval – continuing to extend the quality, innovation, competitiveness and scale of organisation’s service and impact.
- Regulator vs Regulated — push and pull.

[See the speakers](#)

Who should attend?

- Company Directors
- Company Secretaries
- C-Suite including CEOs, CROs, CIOs, CISOs, CTOs, CDOs
- General and Senior Managers
- Heads of Security
- Governance and Risk Management Professionals

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Monday, 8 September

7:50am–8:35am

Registration

8:35am–8:40am

Welcome to Country

8:40am–8:45am

Chair's opening

Pauline Vamos FGIA FCG, President and Chair, Governance Institute of Australia

8:45am–9:00am

MC opening

Anjali Rao, Award-winning Broadcast Journalist

9:00am–9:45am

Opening address

- How do leaders look beyond what they are given when they take on the role, to lead the organisation towards what more it can be?
- Addressing the impact and influence of ongoing geopolitical landscape.
- What is the task for leaders as a collective?

Chair: Karlie Cremin, Chief Executive Officer, DLP

Ben Wyatt, Non-executive Director, Rio Tinto, Woodside, APM and Telethon

Session sponsor:



9:45am–10:30am

Fireside chat – Navigating the ongoing challenges and oncoming disruption

- Changes to organisational structures as the stakeholders and geographies of organisations change and expand.
- Innovation, change and growth-extending the quality, competitiveness and scale of organisation's service and impact.
- The board's challenge for effective risk oversight in a continuously shifting landscape.
- Succession planning for a future-fit, high-performing board.

Chair: Andrew Amos, Regional Vice President, Diligent APAC

Kathryn Fagg AC, Non-executive Director, National Australia Bank, Djerriwarrh Investments Ltd and Medibank Private Ltd

Darryl Newton, Non-Executive Director, ING Bank Australia

Session sponsor:



10:30am–11:00am

Morning tea



11:00am–11:45am

Regulators panel

- What drives/guides regulators thinking around governance reform.
- The scope of regulatory governance – impact on business, government and NFP.
- The relationship between regulators and the regulated.
- Challenges for compliance, efficiency, and rigour in a dynamic marketplace.

Chair: Jayden Leming, Governance Solutions Expert, OnBoard

Camille Blackburn, Director of Asia Pacific, Financial Conduct Authority UK

Belinda Gibson FGIA, Non-executive Director, Brisbane Airport Corporation, Humbli and Yalari Group

Session sponsor:



11:45am–12:25pm

Fireside chat – Global risks impact

- How geopolitics has taken over the risk discussion – socio-economic and business impact.
- Organisational capacity to assess and manage macro and micro risks.
- The transformative impact of technology and AI on the consideration and reality of risk.
- Adaptability vs resilience.

Chair: James Ritchie FGIA, Practice Leader, Workplace and Enterprise Risk Management, Bellrock Benefits

Cathy Moloney, Vice President Australia, The Asia Group

Ian Opperman, Commonwealth Data Standards Chair for Digital ID and Consumer Data Right

Professor Alex Robson, Deputy Chair and Commissioner, Productivity Commission

Session sponsor:



12:25pm–12:30pm

Insights from Nasdaq

Rodrigo Herrera, Account Director, Investor Relations and Governance Solutions, ANZ, NASDAQ

Session sponsor:



12:30pm–1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm–2:10pm

Concurrent stream 1 (*select your session*)

Concurrent 1A – Company Secretaries Panel

In this annual feature session, we reflect on what is top of mind for company secretaries as the complexity of governance continue to grow.

Chair: Marnie Reid, CEO, Issuer Services AU&NZ, Computershare

Craig Emery FGIA, Group Company Secretary, Telstra

Fiona Mead FGIA, Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Governance, CSL

Session sponsor:



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|----------------------|---|
| | <p>Concurrent 1B – Cyber security and privacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Privacy Act and fast the pace of growth of digital ecosystems. • The expectations and challenges for reasonable technical and organisational measures to keep information secure. • How AI is enhancing security frameworks and real-time decision-making. • Reflections on the current theatre of cyber threats. <p>Chair: Lyn Nicholson FGIA FCG, General Counsel, Holding Redlich Ben Doyle, Director - Cyber Security Industry Experience, Thales Chirag Joshi, President, ISACA Sydney</p> <p>Session sponsor:</p>  <p>HOLDING REDLICH</p> |
| 2:10pm–2:15pm | Room change |
| 2:15pm–2:55pm | Concurrent stream 2 (<i>select your session</i>) |
| | <p>Concurrent 2A – Young Leaders – re-shaping the present, driving the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The philosophy of leadership – aligning ambition and drive with value. • Scaling innovation and impact. • The founder/CEO conundrum. • The governance challenge. <p>Chair: Natasha Jha Bhaskar, Executive Director, Newland Global Group Adam Davids, Chief Executive Officer, CareerTrackers & Director Social Ventures Australia Ishita Gupta, Founding Engineer, Kinso AI</p> |
| | <p>Concurrent 2B – Generative AI – Human engagement, design and impact</p> <p>Chair: Veronica Rios, Director, Global Associations & Strategic Partnerships, LexisNexis Gaby Carney, Senior Fellow, Strategic AI, Human Technology Institute Tim Trumper, Author, AI Game on</p> <p>Session sponsor:</p>  |
| 2:55pm–3:25pm | Afternoon tea |
| 3:25pm–3:35pm | <p>A Touch of Magic</p> <p>Jackson Aces, Illusionist & Magician</p> |
| 3:35pm–4:15pm | <p>The People Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture is challenging, rebuilding trust is the challenge. • How to fix a toxic workplace culture. • Factors impacting the nature of the workforce of the future. <p>Ann Sherry AO, Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology, Non-executive Director Dr Vanessa Guthrie AO, Non-executive Director, Chancellor, Curtin University Beth Worrall, Manager, Responsible AI Network, National AI Centre</p> |

4:15pm–4:55pm

The future of ESG

- How has the ESG discussion shifted in the last two years.
- The politics vs realities of DEI — what comes next.
- Impact on people, services and customer engagement.
- How technology is helping address the climate and nature-positive strategy and action.

Chair: Dr Tracey Dodd, Director Research Development, University of Adelaide, Chair, Governance Committee, Green Industries SA

Gillian Meller, Legal and Governance Director, MTR Corporation (Hong Kong)

Paul Murphy, Head of ESG APAC, Georgeson

Associate Professor Tim Nelson FGA FCG, Chair, Australian National Energy Market Review

4:55pm–5:35pm

International address

Afshin Molavi, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute & Founder, Emerging World Initiative, Johns Hopkins University (USA)

5:35pm

MC Closing remarks

Katrina Horrobin, CEO, Governance Institute of Australia

5:40pm–7:00pm

The Nasdaq Governance Social – Networking drinks



Wrap up the day in style and join your peers in the industry at **The Governance Social** networking drinks – a chance to relax, connect, and celebrate a successful day.

Unwind with colleagues and new connections while enjoying live entertainment from the captivating magician, Jackson Aces.

Delight your palate with a curated whiskey and gin tasting featuring premium selections, and take the opportunity to meet and network with event sponsors in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere.

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About Governance Institute

A national membership association, Governance Institute of Australia advocates for a community of governance and risk management professionals, equipping over 7,500 members with the tools to drive better governance within their organisation. We tailor our resources for members in the listed, unlisted, not-for-profit, and public sectors, and ensure our member's voice is heard loudly. As the only Australian provider of chartered governance accreditation, we offer a range of short courses, certificates, and postgraduate study to help further the knowledge and education of the fast-growing governance and risk management profession. We run a strong program of thought leadership, research projects and news publications and draw upon our membership of the Chartered Governance Institute to monitor emerging global trends and challenges to ensure our members are prepared. Our members know that governance is at the core of every organisation, and in these tumultuous times, that good governance is more important than ever before.