



## PROFILE

# ROSS NEIVANDT CEEnvP

PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST & NATIONAL  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



With over 30 years' experience, Ross Neivandt is a project leader and program director trusted to run large, demanding programs and foster collaborations with a diverse array of stakeholders, including farmers, landholders, government entities, NGOs, First Nations communities, academics, and corporate partners. Regularly engaged by top global corporations, governments, and universities, Ross leads nationally significant projects with a focus on leadership through influence, impact, and connection. He excels in developing practitioner-led solutions for complex projects and stakeholder engagements.

As Project Catalyst's coordinator, Ross supports farmers in developing and adopting improved land, water, and crop management practices to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Under his leadership, Project Catalyst has achieved significant milestones, including the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices that have led to a 30% reduction in nitrogen runoff and a return on investment of over 500% for the project's funding partners in terms of ecosystem services value. With a very much hands on approach to project leadership, Ross aims to champion and promote Project Catalyst's achievements, support current and future innovation and ensure project successes are extended to the greater growing community and beyond.

In his role as Program Director at the University of Melbourne, Ross leads a team of academics, experts, and practitioners responsible for developing the Carbon Farming Outreach Program training package. This work underpins the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water's national program and provides practical and easily understood information for farmers, land managers, and all Australians.

As an inspiring program director and principal scientist, Ross is renowned for leading diverse teams to drive productivity, improve environmental performance, and foster peer-to-peer learning and community of practice development. His recent work has been pivotal in the environmental, climate mitigation, and agricultural sustainability sectors at both local and national levels. With extensive expertise in international business leadership, operational management, and strategic development, Ross is committed to guiding stakeholders towards social and environmental change.

Ross leverages his expertise to develop sustainable production and supply chain pathways that prioritise natural capital values, climate mitigation, and sustainability



"Project Catalyst is the wonderful story of the successes of our grower's own on-farm initiatives, ultimately aimed at creating enduring reductions in our impact on the Reef. Together, we will continue the great work and enrich the industry by sharing and promoting our important achievements. The Great Barrier Reef, our greatest natural asset, couldn't be in safer hands"

outcomes. He excels in refocusing leadership, aligning program objectives with stakeholder aims, guiding teams, and coaching for individual value and solution-oriented outcomes.

## KEY SKILL AREAS

- Large and small-scale project conceptualisation, planning, and execution
- Grower engagement and stakeholder relations management
- Communication, extension activities, and team leadership
- Innovation stewardship, quality management, governance, and compliance
- Refocusing leadership, processes to reinvigorate complex projects and developing strategies to align program objectives with stakeholder aims
- Guiding teams to success under challenging conditions
- Coaching centred on individual value and solution-focused outcomes
- Working across complex areas, from directing climate mitigation programs to leading initiatives of national and global significance
- Coordinating agricultural and industrial processes research and development of improved environmental practices



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### **Master of Science. M.Sc.(Global Management)**

University of Salford 2017-2021

### **Bachelor of Science (Honours). B.Sc.(Hons)**

University of Melbourne 1990-1991

### **Bachelor of Applied Science. B.App.Sc.(Geology)**

La Trobe University 1987-1989

### **Carbon Neutral Agriculture**

University of Melbourne

### **Sustainable Agricultural Land Management**

University of Florida

### **Business Sustainability in the Circular Economy**

University of London

### **Organizational Analysis**

Stanford University

### **Futures Thinking**

Arizona State University

### **Strategic Thinking**

Arizona State University

### **Perspective-Taking**

Arizona State University

### **Information Vetting**

Arizona State University

### **New Technologies for Business Leaders**

State University of New Jersey

### **Intellectual Humility: Science**

The University of Edinburgh

### **Security & Safety Challenges in a Globalized World**

Universiteit Leiden

### **Understanding and Seizing the Strategic Opportunity**

Università Bocconi

### **Government Investigator (PSP40416)**

## RELEVANT PROJECTS

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ROLE	CLIENT	YEAR
Carbon Farming Outreach Program	Leading the Federal Governments development of the national training package for farmers and land managers on how to reduce carbon emissions, increase carbon storage and integrate low-emission practices into farming operations	Program Director	The University of Melbourne The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	2023-Current
Project Catalyst	Coordinating this grower led innovation program promoting improved land, water and crop management practices and creating enduring water quality improvements for the Great Barrier Reef	Coordinator and Principal Scientist	The Coca Cola Foundation Australian Federal Government Reef Trust Great Barrier Reef Foundation WWF-Australia	2019-Current
Innovation, R&D and Emerging Technologies	Leading the development of patented environmental monitoring technologies, satellite telemetry systems and data management techniques	Principal Innovation Scientist	Private Company	2015-2016
Environmental Services and Global Management	Founder of IESA Global and provider of environmental consulting, monitoring, compliance auditing, investigation, greenfield development, hydrogeology and R&D	Managing Director and Principal Scientist	BMA, BHP Iron Ore, Codelco, Vale, Xstrata, MIM and others Landcare Australia State and Federal Governments	1993-2015
Groundwater Research	Irrigation practices and impacts on productivity and groundwater systems	Research Associate	Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations / QDPI	1990-1993

## COMPETENCIES

Justice of the Peace (Qual)

Private Investigator (Licence Z04-084-70S)

Private Security Individual (Licence Z04-084-70S)

## EXPERIENCE

### **University of Melbourne**

**(Carbon Farming Outreach Program Development)**

National Program Director

### **Catchment Solutions**

**(Agricultural Innovation and Environmental Consultancy)**

Principal Scientist and Project Catalyst Coordinator

### **Gilbert & Sutherland**

**(Environmental Services)**

Principal Innovation Scientist

### **IESA Environmental (Global)**

**(Environmental, Geotechnical and Drilling Services)**

Principal Scientist and Managing Director

### **Rust PPK**

**(Environmental and Engineering Services)**

Hydrogeologist

### **Queensland Department of Primary Industries**

**(Salinity and Contaminant Hydrology)**

Field Scientist

### **Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations**

**(Research and Extension Services)**

Research Associate

