

TNQ

Drought Hub

PROFESSOR (DR) ROGER CHRISTOPHER STONE

EXPERT METEOROLOGIST
AND CLIMATOLOGIST



Meet our expert!



Professor (Dr) Roger
Christopher Stone
*Expert Meteorologist
and Climatologist*

Professor Roger Stone has had over 35 years' experience in climate science and applications for drought preparedness and management systems, in Australia and globally. This experience has included the development and leadership of five Climate Applications Research Centres and Institutes within the Queensland Government and at the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ). This experience has also included and the development of drought preparedness programs and as a management leader within the United Nations (UN) World Meteorological Organisation, the Integrated Drought Management Program, the UN Standing Committee for Agriculture, and as a Focal Point within the UN program for Disaster Risk Reduction. Roger has also addressed over 60,000 producers, farmers, and agribusiness leaders across Australia, in regard to enhancing climate and drought risk management and preparedness, since 1992, and has also served as

advisor and member of the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Council.



Roger was engaged by the TNQ Drought Hub to discuss some of his expertise. At the Giru Canefield and Mill, Roger explained that this part of FNQ has the most variable climate on earth. The environment is a character-building place to work and live. Sugar cane is about the best cropping option available to withstand such climate variability. Roger talked about the preparedness of farmers for weather and climate extremes and how those weather and climate patterns have changed and are continuing to change with noticeably fewer cyclones, though with higher rainfall variability. Roger highlighted the implications for the whole supply chain because of these changes. Roger reflected on his role in popularising the terminology and understanding of the ENSO, the Southern Oscillation Index, El Nino & La Nina and the links between weather and climate.

Further discussions were held with Roger at the James Cook University Townsville Campus in Douglas. Roger reflected on how his career all started by using the analogy that both flying and farming have a lot in common when it comes to making crucial decisions based on the weather. Roger was an aviation meteorologist with the air traffic control, operations, and associated the commercial airlines and the RAAF before undertaking more study into complex climate and its implications for agriculture and water resources, globally. He also helped establish a centre of excellence in regional Queensland in close proximity to farmers, key stakeholders, local community leaders and regional politicians.



Roger spoke about the importance of travelling the state and throughout Australia and many world regions, explaining weather and climate science in order to empower farmers and agribusiness in order to help with key decision-making. Roger noted this was virtually unique in the climate science world, which may explain why he progressively became drawn into top-level discussions through the UN's World Meteorological Organisation and now the leadership of its Commission



for Agricultural Meteorology and also the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Applications. Roger reflected on the multi-disciplinary toolkit required to drive understanding of climate variability and change and urged early and mid-career scientists to embrace the challenge. He made it clear scientists certainly do not have all the key answers when it comes to climate variability and change but what was needed was inquiring minds, lots of quantitative skills, and support from all levels of government, industry, and international co-operation to tackle these big questions.



CONTACT US

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and Innovation Hub



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