



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

CAREER SNAPSHOT

Alexandra Bunton is the senior policy advisor for cropping and horticulture for NSW Farmers and in her role has developed policy for grains, horticulture, biosecurity, ag vet chemicals, gene technology and innovation. She also manages the NSW Young Farmer Council and NSW Farmers' young farmer programs. And this is only the tip of the ice-berg! Aly has tremendous experience across multiple agricultural industries – not bad for someone who completed a degree in environmental science and only took a job in agriculture until an environmental one became available.

Aly spent her childhood in Sydney and Newcastle with no exposure to agriculture but when she took that first job with the Federal Government's Department of Agriculture she didn't look back. "I didn't expect to end up loving the agriculture sector as much as I did (and I never moved to Environment!). I enjoyed it so much that I enrolled in a Masters of Agriculture at UNE – partly to learn more about the industry, but also to prove to myself that I could do a science degree."

In her time with the Department Aly worked in biosecurity, productivity and innovation, water, natural resource management, coal seam gas and cropping policy. She was involved in legalising medicinal marijuana and the expansion of the poppy industry, implementing a \$250m program for water efficiency in South Australia, negotiating with states on behalf of the Federal Government, and designing programs for the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

Then, because she wanted to actually talk to farmers about the policy issues that mattered to them, Aly took a job with NSW Farmers. Initially her role revolved around livestock and the push for government action against the debilitating Q fever and the development of a vaccine.

Today Aly is involved with equally fascinating aspects of agriculture including defending farmers' access to glyphosate, presenting at a Senate hearing on horse traceability and reforming the NSW Young Farmer Council. And on top of that she writes for The Farmer magazine and sits on the Country Women's Association of NSW State Agriculture and Environment Committee. Phew!

Aly is keen to see young people follow her into the agri-political arena. "I train young farmers and other members in dealing with the media, as well as delivering policy training to help them get the most out of our policy committees and deal with government." We can only hope the next generation has the same energy levels and commitment as Aly!

This is Alexandra's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



ALEXANDRA BUNTON

WITH A CAREER IN THE AGRI-POLITICAL SPACE, AND SEEMINGLY BOUNDLESS ENERGY, ALEXANDRA BUNTON HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO A PLETHORA OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

