



# INNER CIRCLE FORUM 2023

LEADING DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

## EVENT PROGRAM

## WELCOME TO INNER CIRCLE FORUM 2023

Inner Circle is an opportunity for key EarthCheck members, partners and tourism leaders from around the world to gather to discuss some of the key economic, social and environmental challenges facing our industry. This year, Inner Circle Forum will be held in our hometown of Brisbane, supported by Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, TAG Group, Crystalbrook Collection, Trade and Investment Queensland, ResortBrokers, Griffith Institute for Tourism and The Content Division.

Inner Circle Forum will feature three main panel discussions over the open-to-all forum; ESG and green finance, sustainable tourism destinations and the practicalities of net zero. Our speakers are world renowned researchers, professionals and thought leaders, and are ready to share their expertise with our delegates at Inner Circle.

Join us to discuss the future of international tourism and the implementation of sustainable initiatives. We look forward to welcoming you to Brisbane in August 2023.

### **Stewart Moore**

CEO and Founder



To find out more about Inner Circle Forum 2023, head to [www.earthcheck.org/icf23/](http://www.earthcheck.org/icf23/). For event enquiries, please contact Emily Hanrahan at [emily.hanrahan@earthcheck.org](mailto:emily.hanrahan@earthcheck.org)

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### OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT IN DELIVERING INNER CIRCLE FORUM 2023



Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre



The Content Division



Crystalbrook Collection Hotels and Resorts

Hotels and Resorts



TAG Group



Trade and Investment Queensland



ResortBrokers



Griffith Institute For Tourism

## **AUGUST 28**

### **INNER CIRCLE FORUM**

#### **BRISBANE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE (SKY ROOM & SKY TERRACE)**

- 08:30** Delegate registration
- 09:00** Welcome to Country
- 09:20** Official welcome and discussion
- 10:00** ***Morning Tea***
- 10:35** ESG in tourism and hospitality  
*What is ESG and how does it impact me?!*
- 12:00** ***LUNCH***
- 13:00** Leading Destinations of the World™  
*What does “sustainable” really look like?*
- 14:30** On a pathway to net-zero  
*Ambitious goal or unachievable unicorn?*
- 16:00** Discussion – key issues and outcomes  
*Stewart Moore*
- 16:30** Final acknowledgments
- 16:45** Delegates move to Sky Terrace
- 17:00** Post-forum Cocktail function begins
- 19:00** Delegates exit Sky Terrace

### ESG IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Professor Graham Miller**  
Professor of Sustainability in Business  
University of Surrey, UK

Professor Graham Miller holds a Chair in Sustainability in Business at the University of Surrey. He is the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Surrey and is the former co-editor of the Journal of Sustainable Tourism, the leading academic journal dedicated to research around promoting sustainability of the tourism industry.

#### PANELLISTS



**Dr Michael Duggan**  
Director, Sustainability and Climate Change Risk  
Ashurst

Michael Duggan is a Director in Ashurst's Risk Advisory practice. He has over 15 years' experience in commercial and for-purpose executive leadership, coupled with the delivery of energy & resources, heavy industry, renewable and government advisory, consulting and research engagements across Australia and internationally.



**Dave Baswal**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ovolo Hotels

Ovolo Group is led by Chief Executive Officer Dave Baswal, who brings with him a wealth of experience within the hospitality industry. Previously acting as Managing Director for Ovolo AU/NZ, Dave's passion for the brand is palpable. Dave recognises that Ovolo Group embodies a unique opportunity to not only inspire the hospitality industry, but to generate global change.



**Dr Katherine Woodthorpe AO**  
President  
Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering

Dr Katherine Woodthorpe AO is an experienced Chair and Non-Executive Director serving for over 20 years on the boards of a variety of organisations including listed entities, government boards and for-purpose organisations. Amongst her many roles she chaired the National Climate Science Advisory Committee producing the "Climate Science for Australia's Future" report and she is currently on the Steering Committee for the Australian chapter of the Climate Governance Initiative.



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#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Professor David Simmons**  
Chair  
**EarthCheck Research Institute**

David Simmons is Emeritus Professor of Tourism at Lincoln University and a global specialist in destination management. From 2008 to 2010 he was Director of Research for the Australian Federal Government's 'Sustainable Tourism CRC' and has contributed to numerous national and local tourism planning exercises in his home New Zealand, and in Asia.

#### PANELLISTS



**Carolina Mendonca**  
Sustainability Coordinator  
**Azores Destination Management Organisation**

An experienced Chief Sustainability Officer and Sustainability Consultant, Carolina has driven positive change in more than 200 local businesses and companies. Carolina is now the Destination Management Organisation Coordinator for the Azores, the first archipelago in the world to be certified as a sustainable destination by EarthCheck and under GSTC criteria.



**Professor Kumi Kato**  
Professor, Faculty of Tourism  
**Wakayama University, Japan**

Dr. Kumi Kato is a professor at Japan's Wakayama University Faculty of Tourism and Graduate School of Tourism, and is a researcher for the Creating Happiness Incubation at Musashino University. She is a world-renowned researcher, with publications in journals such as the Journal of Sustainable Tourism and Tourism Planning & Development.



**Karen Bollinger**  
Founder & Chief Disruptor  
**Karen Bollinger Consulting & former Destination Gold Coast**

An innovative and outcome driven C Suite Executive in the Visitor Economy sector who brings over 30 years experience across various government, commercial, public private partnership and not for profit membership-based businesses. Karen has worked at C Suite level in Convention Bureau in Melbourne and Sydney, in hotels, venues and worked for and developed some of Australia's largest major events and trade shows.

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### ON A PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Professor Susanne Becken**  
Professor of Sustainable  
Tourism  
**Griffith University**

A globally recognised expert in sustainable tourism, Susanne Becken is a Professor of Sustainable Tourism at Griffith University in Australia and the Principal Science Investment Advisor (Visitor) in the Department of Conservation, New Zealand. Susanne is also a Vice Chancellor Research Fellow at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom, focusing on sustainable tourism and green transition.

#### PANELLISTS



**Mark Olsen**  
CEO  
**Tourism Tropical North  
Queensland**

Mark Olsen is the CEO of Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ), the Destination Management Organisation for the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforests. Prior to joining TTNQ, Mark was the CEO of EarthCheck Consulting for 10 years, and prior to that spent nearly 10 years in various roles at Tourism and Events Queensland.



**Brendan Herriott**  
Director, Sustainable Finance  
Business banking  
**Commonwealth Bank (CBA)**

Brendan works with corporate clients to share sustainability insights and developments and to access sustainable finance structures that support their sustainability strategies. A banker by background, Brendan brings a commercial mindset to supporting businesses to accelerate their unique sustainability journeys.



**Jelena Kezika**  
Senior Director Strategy  
**Global Hotel Alliance**

Jelena Kezika is a Senior Director of Strategy at Global Hotel Alliance. Specialising in business strategy, Jelena uses her skills to help develop and launch strategic products and solutions to attain sustainable business growth for Global Hotel Alliance and its multi-brand loyalty programme, GHA DISCOVERY.