

Kate Gaffney

***Director, Engagement, Partnerships and Research***



Co-founder of Tennant Burnett Corporate Advisory and of AxleTree Capital, Kate was a career University academic in the humanities with a rich career across The University of Melbourne, Monash University and Federation University (Australia's largest regional University) before pivoting to an investment banking role in 2022.

Kate has recently returned to her role at Tennant Burnett after 12 months secondment (to a fixed term State government project) at Federation University as Manager, Renewable Energy Transition. In this role she worked with the Victorian brown coal electricity generators and global Offshore Wind Energy developers to help develop pathways for the employees post-closure of coal fired power plants. In that role Kate led multiple Government submissions for the university, was on the Steering Committee for the Gippsland expansion of the University's Asia-Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre (APRETC) and was appointed as the national chair of the [Clean Energy Council's](#) University and Industry Working Group.

Kate provides support for AxleTree under standing arrangements with Tennant Burnett for sharing of resources and is responsible primarily for engagement with the education, training and research (in conjunction with the Chief Technical Officer) sectors and the communities in which AxleTree and its Investee companies seek to operate, including assessment of regional impacts. With the CTO, Kate will also develop and maintain the pool of subject matter experts which AxleTree may need to access from time-to-time, and will coordinate production of AxleTree's regular Thought Leadership pieces. Kate will also lead investment transactions in the industry training and agri-business sectors. At Tennant Burnett, Kate is also directly responsible for the firm's Principal Investments.

Kate is a member of the Adult Community and Further Education Board (ACFE) a state government statutory Board reporting to the Victorian Minister for Skills and TAFE within the [Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions](#) (DJSIR). Kate is also Deputy Chair of the ACFE Board Planning, Prioritisation and Performance Committee and is a former Director of Community College Gippsland. Kate is a member of [Farmers for Climate Action](#), [The United Nations Association of Australia](#), and [Gippsland Women in New Energy](#).

Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Arts and Master of Arts from Monash University, a Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Education from Federation University and a Global Executive MBA from Monash Business School where she received a Women in Leadership sponsorship. As a former academic Kate is an active lifelong learner and has completed the Foundations of Directorship program with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), and short courses at the University of Melbourne including at the Melbourne Business School and the AgVentures programme offered as a partnership between Launch Vic and The Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship at the University of Melbourne, as well as completing modules within her Executive MBA at INSEAD, Stern School of Business (NYU), and China Europe International Business School (CEIBS).