



The University of Sydney

Australia

**Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

**Faculty Symposium (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008)**

**PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN  
MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Symposium Theme**

Academics and public institutions have been developing a range of measures and indicators of sustainability/sustainable development for several decades. Many controversies remain, regarding the appropriate construction and interpretation of such measures, the different signals that biophysical, ecological and economic indicators tend to provide, and the appropriateness of “weak sustainability” versus “strong sustainability” criteria.

This symposium will feature leading economists in the area of sustainability assessment addressing these controversies directly, and seeking solutions to them.

**Venue and Time**

Pharmacy Lecture Theatre (Science Road, Camperdown Campus), from 1.15pm—5.30pm.

Directions: The entrance to the Pharmacy Building is directly opposite the walkway off the footbridge over Parramatta Road onto the campus.

**Attendance and Registration**

The symposium is open to all interested parties, and there is no charge. To register please contact Fortunée Cantrell at [f.cantrell@usyd.edu.au](mailto:f.cantrell@usyd.edu.au) by Tuesday, 1 April 2008.

**Speakers (for biographies see over)**

- Nick Hanley (University of Stirling)
- Michael Harris (University of Sydney)
- Jack Pezzey (Australian National University)
- John Quiggin (University of Queensland)
- Alan Randall (The Ohio State University)

## ***Brief Speaker Biographies***

### **Nick Hanley**

#### ***Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Stirling***

Nick is one of the leading and most prolific environmental economists working in the UK, with many dozens of papers appearing in highly regarded journals worldwide. He has an international reputation for his work, which particularly focuses on environmental valuation, cost-benefit analysis, and environmental sustainability. He has also co-authored several well-known textbooks, including *Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment* (with Clive Spash), *Introduction to Environmental Economics* and *Environmental Economics in Theory and Practice* (both with Jason Shogren and Ben White).

### **Michael Harris**

#### ***Senior Lecturer in Resource Economics, University of Sydney***

Michael is the Discipline Leader of the Agricultural and Resource Economics group at Sydney. He has devoted most of his recent professional research to issues of adjusted national accounting and sustainable development. Most recently, he has completed a project jointly with CSIRO and the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics (Stockholm) on Measuring and Modelling Sustainable Development, in which the formal analysis of ecological resilience was a key feature. He is currently on the Editorial Board of the journal *Environment and Development Economics*.

### **Jack Pezzey**

#### ***Senior Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University***

Jack has been a prominent figure in the literature on “green accounting” (environmentally adjusted measures of national income) and the economics of sustainable development for several decades. His World Bank paper on sustainability been widely cited for its groundbreaking contributions regarding the definition and meaning of sustainability in the context of economic theory, and he has followed this up with several seminal literature surveys (with Michael Toman). As well as more recent research on policy instruments to tackle greenhouse issues, Jack actively continues to research in the area of sustainability measurement, both theoretically and empirically.

### **John Quiggin**

#### ***Professor of Economics and Political Science and Federation Fellow, University of Queensland***

John is one of Australia’s most eminent and prolific academic economists. He has published hundreds of articles on a wide variety of topics in theoretical and applied economics, including many in the profession’s leading journals. He currently runs the Risk and Sustainable Management Group at the University of Queensland, which seeks to analyse sustainable management of the Murray-Darling Basin in the face of environmental pressures and risks. His books include *Generalized Expected Utility Theory: The Rank-Dependent Expected Utility Model*, and *Great Expectations: Microeconomic Reform and Australia*. He also writes regularly for the Australian Financial Review, and maintains a personal weblog as well as contributing to the blog *Crooked Timber*.

### **Alan Randall**

#### ***Professor of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University***

Alan is an internationally renowned environmental and resource economist, specializing in environmental economics and policy, with particular interests in the theory and practice of estimating benefits and costs of environmental projects and programs, biodiversity and habitat conservation, policies for environmental sustainability, and environmental regulation, monitoring, and enforcement. He has made seminal contributions in several areas of non-market valuation and the analysis of sustainability. His books include *Making the Environment Count: Selected Essays*, and *Resource Economics: An Economic Approach to Natural Resource and Environmental Policy* (two editions).