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Newsletter #47

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
May 2018

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Dear friend,

Please find below the ESA NSW Branch Newsletter for May 2018.

Upcoming Events

Lunchtime Seminar - A Mixed Bag: The Hidden Time Costs of Regulating Consumer Behavior

Abstract—The non-monetary costs consumers experience from price and quantity regulations are challenging to quantify, and thus easily overlooked. Using quasi-experimental policy variation and high-frequency supermarket data, I casually identify time costs of policies that ban and tax the use of disposable carryout bags (DCB). DCB policies cause a persistent 3% increase in average supermarket checkout duration. Moreover, DCB policies and their associated time costs disincentivize grocery shopping, with supermarkets in regulated jurisdictions experiencing a 1.6% drop in sales. The results highlight trade-offs between convenient and environmentally-friendly behaviors in healthy food acquisition, and show ignoring non-monetary costs overstates welfare gains from policy-induced behavioral change.

Biography—Rebecca Taylor is a lecturer in the School of Economics at the University of Sydney. Dr. Taylor's expertise lies in consumer behavior, food policy, and environmental economics. With public concern over reducing pollution and health care costs, policymakers often turn to economic interventions to change how consumers consume (e.g., taxes, bans, and advisory campaigns). Dr. Taylor's work asks whether these policies are effective tools for changing behavior, whether they displace consumption in unintended ways, and how they interact with issues of equity. Dr. Taylor holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. from Washington & Lee University.

ACE2018 - Early Bird registration will be closing soon. Book before 10 May to secure a spot at the reduced rate. There's a fantastic line up of **key note speakers** that you will not want to miss.

Visit the official ACE website for more information and to

Emerging Economist Series

In the third EES of 2018, special guest Professor **Matthew Butlin** provided fascinating insights into his distinguished career in economics which has spanned both the public and private sectors, across many roles including Chair of the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, Commissioner of the Productivity Commission, and senior executive roles in mining, management consulting and within several Commonwealth Departments. **Dr Butlin** is currently the Victorian Red Tape Commissioner, and since 2015 he has worked with businesses to identify and reduce red tape and regulatory inefficiency. He is currently a Professorial Fellow at the Monash Business School and the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Melbourne Institute for Applied Economic and Social Research and current the national President of the Economic Society of Australia. Discussion around his research into Australian economic history, innovation and the importance of establishing quality business liaison programs for policy decision-making provided plenty to takeaway for those in attendance.

The final EES lunch will take place on Wednesday 2 May with the Hon. Paul Keating.

The Hon. Paul Keating left school at 15, joined the ALP, became President of the party's NSW Youth Council and was elected in 1969 to the House of Representatives as the Member for Blaxland. In 1975 he became the youngest ever federal Minister, as Minister for Northern Australia in the Whitlam Cabinet. When the ALP was returned to Government in March 1983, Mr Keating became Treasurer, a position he held until 1991 when he became Prime Minister then led the ALP to an historic fifth term of Government.



While in government Mr Keating implemented far-reaching economic reforms, including: deregulation of the financial sector; the float of the Australian dollar; extensive tax reform; and the dismantling of protectionist barriers. Other reforms included, deregulating the airline and telecommunications industries and establishing a national framework for power, the National Training Authority, a national superannuation scheme, the review of the Sex Discrimination Act, the historic Mabo legislation and protection of endangered species, and focusing Australian external policy towards Asia. Following the defeat of the ALP in March 1996, Mr Keating resigned from Parliament. Mr Keating is Visiting Professor of Public Policy at the University of New South Wales and has been awarded multiple Honorary Doctorates. Mr Keating's book, "Engagement: Australia Faces the Asia-Pacific", examines Australia's foreign policy objectives and achievements during his term as Prime Minister and was published in March 2000.

Latest News

US Corporate Tax Cuts

This month we asked our **National Economic Panel** (NEP) for their views on the following proposition. It goes to a potential **core election issue** as to whether Australia should follow President Trump's suit and reduce its company tax rate if it is to continue to attract investment from abroad and at home.

Proposition: The recent US corporate tax cuts will have no impact on investments in and capital flows into Australia.

Read the **results of this poll**

Read overview of the poll results by: **John Hewson AM**, Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.

Collaborator Credits: we would like to thank John Hewson for his assistance in framing this poll question and for his expert overview of the results. We are grateful, as always, for the insights of the contributing panellists.

Other Events

Seminar: Health Economics evaluation through the ages

CHERE is delighted to welcome Professor Philip Clarke to present a seminar on the history of health economic evaluation before he heads to Oxford. All are welcome and we will host drinks after the seminar for those who would like to farewell Philip (please email reception@chere.uts.edu.au with any dietary requirements).

Abstract: This seminar provides a broad overview of the development of economic methods for evaluating public health and medical interventions prior to the 1970s in 3 sections:

- a) Attempts to place a monetary value on life during the Victorian era;
- b) Early contributions, such as the work of Chapin and Sydenstricker, to evaluate public health interventions prior to World War II;
- c) Development of economic evaluation during and after World War II, particularly the development of methods both by the military and by public health researchers.

The seminar will identify commonalities in the problems and methods of evaluation, as well as early attempts to use economic evaluation for policy analysis in Australia. It will end with a list of five classic papers all health economists should read to appreciate the history of their discipline.

Speaker: Professor Philip Clarke is Director of the Centre for Health Policy in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at University of Melbourne. Previously, he spent time at the Sydney School of Public Health and the Health Economic Research Centre at the University of Oxford. His research interests include methods to value the benefits of improved access to health care, health inequalities and the use of simulation models in health economic evaluation. He has also undertaken policy relevant research for the World Bank, OECD, AusAID and the Department of Health.

REGISTER NOW

The changing issuance & debt management landscape – what matters most next?

For some years the AOFM has undertaken increasing issuance tasks. These have been approached with a focus on broadening operational flexibility while reducing debt portfolio risks. How will the fiscal outlook and the potential for changing financial market conditions impact considerations and choices for the year ahead? Can the investor base be assumed to remain unchanged and if not what, if anything, could that mean for issuance patterns ahead?

ABE are pleased to present a lunchtime briefing and discussion with:

Mr Rob Nicholl, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM)

The changing issuance & debt management landscape – what matters most next?

Details

- Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
- Venue: Sofitel Wentworth Sydney, 61 Phillip Street, Sydney
- Cost: \$155 members, \$185 non-members, \$1400 tables (of 8 guests each)
- Lunch includes two courses and beverages.

Registration and further information

Register online [here](#)

Enquiries: info@abe.org.au or call 0419 256 339

About the Speaker

Mr Rob Nicholl was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Office of Financial Management in January 2011. He has extensive public and financial policy experience having had a number of senior executive appointments in the Tasmanian Treasury and Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. His public and financial policy knowledge is broad and during his eight year appointment as a Tasmanian Treasury Deputy Secretary he gained significant commercial and regulatory experience taking a lead role in major whole-of-government projects. In 2000, Mr Nicholl worked as Senior Advisor to the then Tasmanian Deputy Premier. Prior to joining the public service, he spent several years in academia as a research fellow and lecturing in economics. He has worked as a consultant and has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Tasmania and a Masters of Arts from the University of Alberta.

Readings for the Month

We thought you might enjoy the following articles from The Conversation...

- Budget Policy Check: Do We Need Company Tax Cuts (Janine Dixon)
<https://theconversation.com/budget-policy-check-do-we-need-company-tax-cuts-9448>
- Budget Policy Check: Do We Need Personal Income Tax Cuts (Saul Eslake)
<https://theconversation.com/budget-policy-check-does-australia-need-personal-income-tax-cuts-94500>
- Budget Policy Check: Do We Need Ribbon-Cutting Infrastructure for Jobs and Growth (Hugh Batrouney)
<https://theconversation.com/budget-policy-check-do-we-need-ribbon-cutting-infrastructure-for-jobs-and-growth-95362>

Careers and Graduate Opportunities

Advertising an economics position on the ESA website is a good way to get wide exposure for a role. If you would like to advertise a role on the website, please contact our [administrator](#) for more information. There is a small fee of \$110 inc GST.

Below are some recent opportunities:

Director - National Economic Planning Office, Kiribati

Director - National Economic Planning Office, Kiribati | Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism 2 (PACTAM2)

- Adviser Remuneration Framework (ARF) – D4
- 6 month role (until 30 December 2018 with likely extension until September 2020)
- Based in Tarawa, Kiribati

The role

The Director - National Economic Planning Office (NEPO) at the Kiribati Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will be responsible for the effective management of the NEPO Division, for capacity building of NEPO staff to deliver the Division's objectives and for enabling the integration of planning, budgeting, investment and aid coordination across the division. The Director will improve aid effectiveness by promoting best practice in aid design, delivery and monitoring. The Director will lead a core team of technical/professional staff in NEPO and is required to provide strong intellectual and technical leadership in the areas of policy, planning and budgeting.

This role is expected to commence in July 2018 for a period of 6 months until 30 December 2018 with likely extension until September 2020.

Key objectives:

- Enhance the oversight and management of economic reform program and public funds including Government's Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund;
- Strengthen NEPO's ability to provide strategic advice on the impacts of new and on-going policies/economic reforms including the macroeconomic outlooks;
- Improve the role of NEPO in linking planning/budgeting, aid coordination, and evaluation/monitoring of plans and strategies;
- Build the capacity of NEPO staff to deliver the range of NEPO functions (planning, budgeting, investment and aid harmonization) effectively; and
- Provide advice and guidance on cross-cutting issues in line with relevant Australian Aid policies and other appropriate standards.

Selection criteria:

- Degree in Economics, Finance, Commerce or related discipline;
- Demonstrated experience in a senior technical position preparing strategic policy-focused financial planning, budgeting and investment advice to support fiscally achievable economic and social development outcomes;
- Minimum of 5 years experience in a senior leadership position responsible for managing human resources and building organisational capability
- High level analytical skills with the ability to apply sound judgement and negotiate to achieve outcomes;
- Demonstrated commitment to improving systems and processes and building the capacity of co-workers through mentoring and the transference of skills;
- Previous experience living and working in a developing country, particularly in the Pacific or small island states (desirable) and ability to cope with cultural isolation in a remote location and a preparedness to work with limited resources;
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills and the ability to work and communicate effectively and respectfully across cultures;
- Proven ability to foster empowerment and sustainability;
- Demonstrated commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability and high standards of personal conduct;
- Demonstrated personal attributes required for the role, including emotional intelligence, patience, tolerance, sensitivity, flexibility, resourcefulness and resilience

The benefits:

- Remuneration in line with the ARF - D4
- Mobility allowance (50%) and special location allowances
- Flights, medicals, and insurance
- Pre-departure briefing and in-country orientation
- Ongoing assignment monitoring and support

Scope Global - Engaged in the present to develop the future

Scope Global is a specialist project management company with people as the focus of its program delivery. We have a history of successfully managing projects in the international development and international education sectors.

The Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism Phase 2 (PACTAM2) is an Australian Government initiative, funded through the Australian aid program and managed by Scope Global. It places highly skilled Advisers with Partner Governments in participating Pacific Island countries to build

capacity and to meet identified human resource needs. If you are interested in other PACTAM2 opportunities and would like to receive updates, please register your interest on our website: <http://www.scopeglobal.com/pactam2/>

To apply:

Scope Global recruitment operates under equal employment opportunity principles and laws. We encourage appropriately qualified and experienced people to apply regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, physical ability or beliefs.

Applications will only be accepted via our online application system. For more detailed information on the position and to apply online, please visit <http://www.scopeglobal.com/pactam2/>

Applications close midnight ACST Sunday 13th May 2018. No late applications will be accepted.

For more information contact a member of our team at recruitment.PACTAM2@scopeglobal.com

Research Economist and Senior Research Economist, Canberra

We are seeking highly skilled and motivated economists at the Executive Level 1 and APS Level 6 classifications who are experienced in policy analysis and the development of advice. We offer a stimulating and wide-ranging policy research environment and the opportunity to influence the direction of public policy. In recent years, we have contributed to the design of new policies such as disability insurance and paid parental leave and provided advice in areas such as workplace relations, financial sector regulation and infrastructure financing.

Successful applicants will demonstrate excellent conceptual and analytical skills, communication skills and the ability to work effectively in a team based environment, including supervising and mentoring others to achieve high quality project outcomes, and have academic qualifications in economics.

*A merit pool of suitable candidates will be established, and may be used to fill similar vacancies either on an ongoing or non-ongoing basis.

About The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed simply, is to help governments make better policies in the long-term interest of the Australian community.

For further information and how to apply, please visit the Commission's website at www.pc.gov.au/careers.

APPLY NOW

Applications close on 13 May 2018.

Senior Economist / Consultant

Senior Economist / Consultant
Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane or Canberra

Aither is a team of economic, public policy and strategy advisors that provide leading advice on water policy, markets, infrastructure and natural hazards. We deliver accurate and evidenced-based advice that inspires and enables positive change in the management of water and natural resources. To meet this vision, we value precision, integrity and commitment.

At Aither, you will get the opportunity to help shape a growing business, working alongside leading practitioners on a diverse range of interesting projects that matter. Aither offers a flexible, team-oriented environment where staff are committed to treating one another with respect and courtesy.

As a Senior Economist/Consultant, your role will be to:

- manage a diverse range of complex projects;
- undertake detailed economic analysis and provide advice to government and private sector clients;
- mentor and support graduate consultants; and
- bring initiative and creativity in applying these skills to generate valuable advice for clients.

The successful candidate will have 3-5 years' experience working in one or more of the following areas, which are listed in no particular order:

- regulatory economics and pricing;
- cost benefit analysis, financial analysis and business case development for infrastructure projects; and
- applied quantitative economic skills to inform policy issues in our key areas of work.

Applications that demonstrate the following will be highly regarded:

- a combination of experience and skills in a number of the areas listed above;

- an ability to link economic analysis to the broader policy and operating environment that regulated utilities operate in; and
- experience in consulting.

As a certified B Corporation we take pride in continually challenging ourselves to discover new ways of improving our interactions with the community, the environment, our employees and our clients. Aither is an inclusive and equal opportunity employer, and we are actively seeking to increase our workplace diversity.

If you're interested in working with some of Australia's leading practitioners in a flexible and collegiate working environment, please send your CV and cover letter to Rod Coulton, via rod.coulton@aither.com.au by **Wednesday, 16 May 2018**.

Graduate Program - Department of Treasury WA

Department of Treasury, 2019 Graduate Program

Pool Ref 638 R

Level 3, \$68,896 - \$74,717 pa, PSGOGA plus superannuation

18 month fixed term contract opportunity with possibility of extension and/or permanency

Help us shape the economic, financial and energy policy for the community you live in – become a Treasury Graduate!

To apply you must be able to demonstrate:

- A high level of academic achievement (must have a course weighted average, grade point average or equivalent of 70% and above);
- Recent completion of tertiary qualification/s or completion by December 2018; and
- Treasury's values of innovative thinking, committed people and working together.

About Treasury

Treasury seeks to achieve value for money outcomes for the people of Western Australia through our inspired people, expert analysis and independent advice. The Department consists of the Treasury business and the Public Utilities Office (PUO).

The Treasury business provides economic and financial management and advice to Government. This includes the formulation, implementation and monitoring throughout the year of the State Budget; economic and revenue forecasting; revenue policy advice; advice and analysis on financial arrangements with the Commonwealth; advice on infrastructure policy and planning; advice on the State's financial management framework; and management of the Public Ledger.

The PUO provides quality advice on energy related policy issues, including effective and efficient regulatory frameworks; security and reliability of supply; technology trends; consumer protection; and affordability.

About the Role

The 2019 Graduate Program is a structured learning and development program run over an 18 month period, designed to enhance both technical and people skills. There is opportunity for permanent appointment or extension after 12 months, subject to completion of a satisfactory performance assessment and Treasury's ongoing work requirements.

The program also offers the following benefits:

- opportunity to work with a central Government Agency and contribute to policy and Government decision making, actively contributing to the State's economy, budget and community;
- opportunity to rotate across different work areas over the 18 month program to gain diverse experience;
- opportunity to access and influence a wide range of stakeholder networks both within Treasury and across the sector;
- gain personal and professional development, whilst applying your expert technical skills in a highly skilled and supportive team environment;
- convenient and central office location in Perth CBD; and
- challenging and interesting work, dealing with a wide range of issues and agencies from across the sector.

This recruitment process may be used to fill future similar permanent or fixed-term positions that may arise.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for self-starters, who are solution focussed and can align with our values – Innovative Thinking, Committed People and Working Together. We are also looking for Graduates who have recently completed their tertiary qualifications (or will complete by December 2018) with a high level of academic achievement (70% CWA or more). It is preferred that applicants possess qualifications which are relevant to Treasury business including, economics, commerce, accounting, mathematics, statistics, or any social sciences.

You will need to be able to demonstrate Treasury's capabilities of:

- Strategy and Analysis;
- Achieves Results;
- Builds Productive Relationships;
- Displays Personal Drive and Integrity; and
- Communicates and Influences Effectively.

This program is only available to Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

Successful applicants will be required to commence in early 2019.

Treasury supports and values diversity and aims to build a workforce that is representative of the community in which we live. We strongly encourage people from diverse backgrounds to apply.

How to Apply

Please read the Graduate Applicant Information Pack and Role requirements prior to applying.

Apply online (<http://www.jobs.wa.gov.au/>) by clicking on the "Apply for Job" button. This will take you through a number of questions. Remember to click the "Submit" button at the end of your application. To apply, you will need to:

- attach a comprehensive CV (in Word or PDF format);
- attach a copy of your current or completed academic record showing your grades;
- attach evidence of Australian Citizenship or Australian permanent residency; and
- answer the questions in the online application form addressing how you demonstrate three of Treasury's Essential Capability Requirements.

Applicants who have been shortlisted for interview will be required to provide the details of two referees who can comment effectively on their skills and abilities, depth of experience and work performance. Where required, the panel will request your referees to return their completed report within one week of your interview, therefore it is important to keep your referees informed during the process. It is preferred that your referees are either current or recent supervisors rather than peers or subordinates. If you do not have work related referees please provide the names of other relevant individuals such as university supervisors, sporting coaches, church leaders, volunteering supervisors or other individuals who can comment on your general skills and abilities.

Please *ensure you have plenty of time to submit your application* to allow for unanticipated problems, as ***late and proforma applications will not be accepted.***

For further information:

For further information about this position, please contact Matthew Stubbs by email at matthew.stubbs@treasury.wa.gov.au (not to be contacted for assistance with lodging your application). If you require assistance with lodging your application please contact recruitment@treasury.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2403.

Closing date: Friday 4th May 2018 at 9.00 pm (WST)
[APPLY NOW](#)

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