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Newsletter #51

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
September 2018
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Dear friend,

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

In the 'A Day in the Life Of' event hosted by the ESA NSW Young Economist Network (YEN) in early August 2018, a panel of early-career economists reflected on their careers and provided valuable insights into a typical day in their job for attending students. Interesting questions were discussed around career choices, transition from university to work, skill set development and others. Following the Q&A session, students interacted with panellists and economics representatives from consulting, central & commercial banking, government and academia in an informal environment. This event was a collaborative effort between the YEN and the economics societies of the University of Sydney and UNSW, with the prospect of continuing partnership and more exciting events in the future.

Thank you to all our panellists, Rubana Huda, NSW Treasury; Xanthe Smith, Deloitte Access Economics; Kaixin Owyong, National Australia Bank; Michael Read - RBA; and Howard Zhang - Sapere Research Group



Upcoming Events

Communicating Economics, the Hon Andrew Leigh MP, Shadow Assistant Treasurer

Communicating Economics, a speech by the Hon Andrew Leigh MP, Shadow Assistant Treasurer

Andrew Leigh is the Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Federal Member for Fenner in the ACT. Prior to being elected in 2010, Andrew was a professor of economics at the Australian National University. He holds a PhD in public policy from Harvard, having graduated from the University of Sydney with first class honours in Law and Arts. Andrew is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, and a past recipient of the 'Young Economist Award', a prize given every two years by the Economics Society of Australia to the best Australian economist under 40.

His books include *Disconnected* (2010), *Battlers and Billionaires* (2013), *The Economics of Just About Everything* (2014), *The Luck of Politics* (2015), *Choosing Openness: Why Global Engagement is Best for Australia* (2017) and *Randomistas: How Radical Researchers Changed Our World* (2018). Andrew is a keen marathon runner, and hosts a podcast titled "The Good Life", which is available on [Apple Podcasts \(formerly iTunes\)](#).

ESA NSW Branch - AGM 2018

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the next **Annual General Meeting** of the Economic Society of Australia (NSW)

Details

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Date | Wednesday 19 September |
| Time | From 6.00pm till 7.30pm - please arrive by 5.50 pm |
| Register | By Wednesday 12 September |
| Nominations | To be received by Wednesday 12 September |
| Location | Deloitte, Level 9, 225 George Street, Sydney |

If you would like to attend, please register below by Wednesday 12 September. We will need to know that you're coming so that you can get into the building.

Nominations for Council Positions

All positions on Council will be declared vacant. To nominate you must be a financial member and so must your nominators. Nominations for Council positions are due Wednesday 12 September.

To nominate:

[Click here](#) to download the Nomination Form.

Alternatively, you may nominate without a form by simply e-mailing the [administrator](#) with the following:

- State your name, contact details (address, email and contact number) and position you would like to be nominated for, and copy in at least one other ESA (NSW) financial member (the supporter of your nomination). The person(s) supporting your nomination will be required to follow up with a separate email endorsing your nomination. Please also disclose any possible conflicts of interest, including employer and role and other professional affiliation.
- Include the following text in your email:

I would like to be nominated for a vacant position on the Economic Society of Australia (NSW Branch) Council for 2018-19. I am a financial member of the Society and I have read and agreed to the Council's Governance Statement (available on the '[Governance](#)' section of the website).

Complete the nomination form and send to the [administrator](#). Nomination forms must be received by Wednesday 12 September. If you wish to attend the AGM you will need to register in order to gain access at Security ([register now](#)).

Latest News

Go8's London Economics report makes a poor case for funding, by Paul Oslington, VP Academic, ESA NSW Branch, published in the Australian. [Click to read this article.](#)

Sugar sweetened beverage tax for Australia

Australia and the international community are facing what is often referred to as an 'obesity epidemic'. More than one in four Australian adults are obese. Sixty four percent of adults and 27 percent of children aged 5-17 years are classified as overweight or obese. The World Health Organisation has called for governments around the world to use fiscal policy as a mechanism to address obesity. The National Economic Panellists' views were sought on such a policy response. In particular, panellists were asked to consider the following propositions:

Proposition 1: The best economic policy instrument available to policy makers seeking to address obesity and related health issues in Australia is the introduction of a tax on sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs).

Proposition 2: The health and non-health benefits from a tax on SSBs are likely to outweigh the possible costs felt elsewhere in the economy.

* **Collaborator credits:** we would like to thank Professor Emily Lancsar for her

assistance in framing this poll question and for her expert overview of the results.

[Read the Poll Results](#)

[Read the Overview](#) of the Results by Professor Emily Lancsar - Head, Department of Health Services Research & Policy, The Australian National University.

Other Events

Australian Labour Market Research - Call for Papers

The 29th Australian Labour Market Research (ALMR) Workshop will be held on the 10th and 11th December 2018 at the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia. You are invited to submit papers for presentation at the Workshop. Further information can be found by clicking this [Call for Papers](#) link

The ALMR Workshop is an annual conference designed to disseminate high quality research on Labour Economics and Labour Relations and to promote informed debate among economists about current labour market issues facing the Australian labour market.

The 29th ALMR Workshop is organised by the Future of Employment and Skills research centre at the University of Adelaide.

The Workshop details are available from this link - <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/future-employment-skills/events>

The American mid-term elections: Prospects and implications
Professor Simon Jackman, Chief Executive Officer, The United States Studies Centre at The University of Sydney

Tuesday 25 September 2018

We offer an on-line booking and payment facility
To book on-line, please click here
Or go to abe.org.au > Forthcoming events

Details

Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00

Venue: The Gallery, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$75 members, \$95 non-members, \$680 tables of eight guests

A light working lunch will be served.

Register online here

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

Simon Jackman commenced as CEO of the US Studies Centre in April 2016. Between 1996 and 2016, he was a Professor of Political Science and Statistics at Stanford University. Jackman's teaching and research centres on public opinion, election campaigns, political participation, and electoral systems with special emphasis on America and Australia. His research has appeared in the leading journals of political science. He is a frequent commentator in Australia media. Jackman's current research projects focus on the opportunities and challenges of web-based survey research, the political and scientific consequences of under-representing unlisted or hard-to-reach populations in social research, predictive models of political behaviour, and methods for large scale, automated coding and analysis of political speech. Jackman was born and raised in Brisbane, and graduated with first class Honours in Government from the University of Queensland. Jackman earned his doctorate at the University of Rochester and Princeton University. His first academic appointment was at the University of Chicago, followed by a Visiting Fellowship at Australian National University, prior to taking up his appointment at Stanford. Jackman was a Visiting Professor at the US Studies Centre from 2009 until he commenced his role as CEO in 2016. In 2013 Jackman was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a past president and Fellow of the Society for Political Methodology. Along with his wife and two children, he is a citizen of both Australia and the United States of America.

Australian Business Economists (ABE) aims to encourage greater understanding of economic issues by fostering debate in the financial market, business and commercial sector and across the community in general. Visit us at: abe.org.au

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2018 Sydney China Business Forum

China's healthy cities: opportunities and challenges for Australian businesses

What does China's urbanisation mean for Australia and our businesses? And what do we need to know to get ready for its complex and global challenges?

Urbanisation in China continues to be a national priority. With permanent urban population accounting for almost 60 percent of total population, and with an anticipated increase of 300-700 million people by 2050, it is a key part of the country's strategy to boost domestic demand.

On 22 October 2018, the Sydney China Business Forum, presented by The University of

Sydney China Studies Centre in collaboration with The University of Sydney Business School & Charles Perkins Centre, will ambitiously tackle the consequences of urbanisation, in particular in areas where the collaboration between academia, industry and policymakers is increasingly essential.

Forum participants will:

- hear unique insights from University of Sydney academics and researchers from various faculties
- meet high-calibre business speakers from China
- exchange ideas and discuss key issues with high-profile entrepreneurs, government representatives and academics
- gain knowledge to help their organisation better meet market demands, work with Chinese businesses and attract investment.

Come and join us to network with high-profile entrepreneurs, government representatives and academics to discuss issues at the heart of China's urbanisation; and gain knowledge to better meet market demands, work with Chinese businesses and attract investment. For more information on the line-up, [view the forum program](#)

Click [here](#) to register

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:

Department of Treasury

Analyst Appointment Pool

Pool Ref 700 R

Level 4, \$78,452 - \$82,797 pa, PSGOGA plus superannuation

Make a contribution that counts, become a Treasury Analyst in our Economic Business Unit!

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 policy issues, including effective and efficient regulatory frameworks; security and reliability of supply; technology trends; consumer protection; and affordability.

About the Role

The positions are in our Economic Business Unit and contribute to the development and delivery of critical evidence-based analysis and advice to inform State Government decision making. As part of this, you will anticipate issues and liaise with stakeholders to inform your judgement. The successful applicants will apply their skills in:

- monitoring, reporting on and forecasting economic and revenue aggregates for the annual budget and mid-year update, and to provide advice to the Treasury Executive and Government; or
- providing advice and analysis of intergovernmental financial relations issues, including forecasting and monitoring of GST revenue and preparing submissions advocating reforms to the distribution of the GST revenues between the States and Territories.

An appointment pool will be established to fill vacant Level 4 Analyst positions that may become available in Treasury within the next 12 months (full-time, part-time, permanent and fixed-term contract). The pool will run from when the selection process is finalised. Placement in the pool does not guarantee you placement in a position.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for self-starters who are resilient, proactive and display strong work ethic. You must also have strong conceptual and analytical skills, and the ability to anticipate, analyse and manage emerging issues. Applicants should be comfortable using spreadsheets and/or other tools to analyse data and who can evaluate qualitative data as required. They will be able to communicate clearly and effectively. They will be strong team players but also be able to work with a minimum of direction, identifying and advising on decision points and improvement opportunities.

We are looking for people who align with our values of innovative thinking, committed people and working together as well as demonstrate Treasury's capabilities of:

- Strategy and Analysis
- Achieves Results

- Builds Productive Relationships
- Displays Personal Drive and Integrity
- Communicates and Influences Effectively

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

Why Apply?

Develop

- Gain personal and professional development, and apply your existing technical skills whilst working with a team of highly skilled, qualified people

Shape

- Contribute to shaping and influencing government decisions

Work

- Perform challenging and interesting work, and deal with a wide range of issues and agencies from across the sector

Influence

- Opportunity to access and influence senior people within both within Treasury and across the sector.

How to Apply

Apply online (<http://www.jobs.wa.gov.au/>) for this vacancy by clicking on the "Apply for Vacancy" button. This will take you through a number of questions and steps. Remember to click the "Submit" button at the end of your application.

To apply, you will need to:

- Refer to the Applicant Information Pack and Role Statement for more information;
- Attach a comprehensive CV (in Word or PDF format) and a full academic transcript(s);
- Provide a brief covering letter (no more than 3 pages) outlining your suitability and competitiveness in relation to the following:
 - **Strategy and analysis;**
 - **Achieve results;**
 - **Displays personal drive and integrity; and**
 - **Relevant qualification in Economics, Mathematics or Physics**
- Ensure you provide the names of two referees who can comment effectively on your skills, abilities, depth of experience and work performance. It is preferred that your referees are either current or recent supervisors rather than peers or subordinates. 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

For applicants that are shortlisted, all other requirements will be assessed later in the process.

Please ensure you have plenty of time to submit your application to allow for unanticipated problems, **as late and pro forma applications will not be accepted**. If you are having problems lodging your application online, please contact recruitment@treasury.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2403.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing 10 September 2018.

For further information: For further information about this position, please contact Suhejla Hoti at suhejla.hoti@treasury.wa.gov.au or 6551 2739 (not to be contacted for assistance with lodging your application).

Closing date: Monday, 3 September 2018 at 9.00 pm (WST)

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us to your contacts to ensure the newsletters land in your inbox.



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