

Applied Resource Economics and Innovation

About the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD)

The ACSBD is a research centre of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ).

Mission statement

The mission of the ACSBD is to accelerate sustainable development by proving the business case for sustainability.

Overview

Accelerating the industrial and commercial utilisation of sustainability innovation is the focus of the newly established ACSBD. The centre is based at USQ Springfield on Brisbane's south western outskirts and at USQ's main campus at Toowoomba.

The ACSBD's research is grounded in high quality research projects involving partners from industry, government and other research centres. Platforms for collaborative research and development exist in sectors as diverse as energy and water, agriculture, tourism and urban design and development.

ACSBD works with its partners providing a range of products and services including research, teaching, training, consultancy, public policy debate, and community and industry extension activities.

This capability statement outlines our expertise in the field of Applied Resource Economics and Innovation. Capability statements for other areas we work in are available from our web site.

Our Applied Resource Economics and Innovation Work

This group focuses its research profile around key themes in economic, resource management and the environment that are aimed at creating a sustainable society. To achieve this, it seeks to understand the causes and consequences of these processes, and the appropriate policy responses for different situations. This research group is actively involved in developing, applying and evaluating economic and financial methods for analysing the environmental and resource economics issues and undertaking economic and policy research.

Research is conducted both by individuals and groups on related areas of inquiry. We are also active in supporting PhD students, early career researchers and visiting fellows. The Group currently has ten PhD students and one Postdoctoral Fellow working on various issues of economics, sustainability, environment and policy making.

Group Activities

- Undertaking research projects funded by research grants and contracts
- Conducting regular seminars and workshops for academics and practitioners
- Supervising PhD students and facilitating visiting fellows
- Publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals, discussion paper series and making contributions to books and journals.

What we offer

The Centre offers public and private sector clients on a wide range of policy and business matters relevant to environmental and applied resources economics issues.

Research Areas include:

Climate Change

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Renewable Energy
- Clean Development Mechanism

Economic Modelling

- Economic Evaluation
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
- Economic Valuation

Financial Analysis

- Carbon Market and Financing

Sustainability

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Sustainability Reporting
- Carbon Footprint

Water Resources Development

- Water Pricing
- Water Demand Modelling
- Water Market & Policy

Natural Resources management

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Protected Area Management
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Forest Management

Data Analysis

- Survey Design
- Regression Analysis
- Time Series Analysis
- Cross Section Analysis
- Demand Analysis and Forecasting

Recent successes

Some examples of recent or current projects are provided here. Details of other projects can be found on our web site.

Dr Alam's recent works include a study of costs and benefits in human service delivery, funded by the Queensland State Government Department of Communities (2007) and measuring the economic and social contributions by older Australians funded by National Seniors Australia (2008). Current research (2009-12) includes an ARC Linkage grant with colleagues who investigate, among others, the economic viability of implementing digital stethoscopes for teleauscultation at the social and enterprise level. Another of his ongoing projects (2009-10) is assessing sustainable water supply options for south east Queensland.

Dr Slaughter is currently a chief investigator on a five year project with the Australian Macadamia Industry in improving the long term profitability and sustainability of the industry. From 2005 to 2009, he was joint chief investigator on the On-farm Economic Analysis in Macadamia project. Part of this project was the development of investment analysis software for the Australian Macadamia

Industry. This software is now being used to assist in setting the strategic direction for investment in research and development for the Australian macadamia industry.

In 2007 Dr Slaughter was a chief investigator on the Economic and Environmental analysis of fodder harvesting practices associated with Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and fire management practices in the mulga lands of south western Queensland. This project work was undertaken for the Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts.

Previous to this Dr Slaughter was a chief investigator on an invited project from the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines to undertake a review of the economic/financial and environmental sustainability of Mulga fodder harvesting in south west Queensland. This review was used as a source of information by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the QLD Environment Minister in the revision of the mulga fodder harvesting codes in line with the States' vegetation management legislation.

Our research team

Dr Khorshed Alam is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Business, University of Southern Queensland. Khorshed holds a PhD in resource economics from Murdoch University, Western Australia, and a Masters in Economics from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.

His main teaching areas, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at USQ, include Economics, Economic Policy Analysis, Applied Econometrics, Research Methodology and Environmental Economics. He is currently developing Sustainable Economies (ECO3030) course for the Bachelor of Accounting and Sustainable Business program in the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance.

Khorshed has considerable skills in the areas of resource economics, cost-benefit analysis, sustainability, economic impact assessment, policy analysis and economic valuation. He is a member of a number of professional associations including the Australian Economists Society and the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. He is a fellow of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments.

He is currently supervising five PhD students on topics related to climate change, environmental economics and sustainability. His research interests include environmental and resource economics, sustainable business and development, and economics of health, water and climate change. He has published over 30 refereed journal articles and book chapters and has conducted research for Queensland and Commonwealth Government departments. Dr Alam's research has been published in journals such as the *Water Science and Technology*, *Agenda*, *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, *Sustaining Regions* and *Asia Pacific Journal on Environment and Development*. He co-edits the journal *Economic Records* and is a reviewer of many international journals. He has done consultancies for various government agencies and the Asian Development Bank.

Dr Shuddha Rafiq joins USQ from The Curtin University of Technology where he has recently completed his PhD in energy economics. Dr Rafiq has published widely in the international and regional referred journals including the *Resources Policy*, *Journal of Economic Development* and *International Journal for Emerging Markets*. He has presented in two international conferences of International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) in Perth and New Orleans and has performed consulting assignments for institutions and organizations like Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia and UNICEF, Bangladesh. He joins ACSBD with 9 years of teaching experience in a wide range of Business and Economics courses at several international standard universities like Curtin University and Murdoch University.

Dr Geoff Slaughter is a senior lecturer in the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Business, University of Southern Queensland. Geoff holds a PhD in Business from the University of Queensland. His main teaching areas, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at USQ are in accounting and sustainable business. Geoff is currently the program coordinator for the Bachelor of Accounting and Sustainable Business and Bachelor of Commerce Programs at USQ.

Geoff is currently involved in the supervision of 8 PhD students in the sustainable business economics areas.

Dr Ariful Hoque is a Lecturer (Finance) in the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Business, University of Southern Queensland. Receiving his PhD in Finance in 2008, Dr Hoque's current research interests are in the areas of foreign exchange, derivatives, forecasting volatility and financial engineering. He has published a number of research articles in numerous ERA ranking international professional journals in the area of banking, finance and investment.

Benefits of working with ACSBD

Ways we can help

Working in creative partnerships with business, communities, and government, the centre brings expert knowledge and leading edge research to projects that prove the business case for sustainability.

Apart from delivering on USQ's plan to be a leading contributor to sustainable futures for communities and regions, the centre strives to be an international leader in providing high quality research, education, training and advice on subjects as varied as:

- business strategy and governance for sustainability,
- innovation for sustainable development,
- roles and opportunities for new technology systems, and
- managing, accounting and reporting organisational sustainability performance.

Publications

Our researchers pride themselves on a successful track record of publications of which we share the results via the ACSBD website.

Contact us

If you would like more information about the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD) please contact us:

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