

USQ academic to chair international climate panel

The University of Southern Queensland through its Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD) will provide academic leadership to international efforts to develop a globally accepted framework for corporate reporting on climate change.

ACSBD Deputy Director Professor Julie Cotter has been invited to chair a high level technical panel assisting the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) based in London.

The Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) was formed at the 2007 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in response to increasing demands from stakeholders for standardised reporting guidelines for presenting climate change information in company statements.

As Chairperson of the CDSB's Regulatory Review Moderation Panel, Professor Cotter and USQ will play a leading role helping businesses plan and account for actions they take to deal with climate change.

Professor Cotter said the panel would create a forum for connecting parties and disciplines that might not traditionally connect.

"The panel will be made up of professionals from a variety of backgrounds including corporate social responsibility professionals, lawyers, accountants, scientists and engineers," Professor Cotter said.

"We will work together to identify and evaluate the synergies and gaps between climate change reporting regulations from around the world by tracking and comparing them.

"It will provide an opportunity for me to work with the other panel members to produce insights into the scope, scale and type of regulatory developments on greenhouse gas measuring and reporting rules and climate change risk reporting rules.

"Ultimately this will assist the global harmonisation of these disclosure requirements."

Professor Cotter said she is most looking forward to working with a highly qualified and diverse team of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions experts from around the world and making a positive difference.

"USQ pursues world-class research, innovation and practice in sustainable futures. Developments around climate change are global, requiring international co-operation and collaboration. This is an area where we excel.

"It is important for us to present both our research and distance education capabilities on the international stages, since our vision is recognised as a world leader in open and flexible higher education."

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