

# Centre for Policy Futures

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

# Contents

Message from Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)	1
Message from Director, Centre for Policy Futures	2
About the Centre for Policy Futures	3
Research Themes	
Sustainable Development Goals and Capacity Building	4
Science, Technology and Society	5
Trade, Foreign and Security Policy	7
People	9
Publications	10

## Message from Professor Julie Duck

Executive Dean (Acting), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The pace and scale of change today, together with the complex and various drivers of that change, places enormous pressure on governments, policy-makers, industries and societies as they struggle to plan for an unknowable future.



In response, the Centre for Policy Futures will accelerate and deepen policy engagement and impact at The University of Queensland (UQ), recognising that effective policy outcomes are achieved when researchers and policy-makers work together.

Established in August, the Centre is planning an extensive research agenda to raise awareness of global trends in politics, economics, and science and society that influence public policy priorities — in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and internationally.

As this annual report shows, the Centre is already adding great value to existing strengths within the Faculty and the University more broadly. It has joined forces with CSIRO on a \$1.5 million project to tackle the governance and policy implications, risks and uncertainties that new science and technology present for society. Its Genomics in Society project is investigating the integration of the ethical, legal, social and educational implications of genomics innovations in a healthcare setting, and it is working closely with the Australian Government on Blue Carbon policy development.

Under the leadership of Professor Karen Hussey, the Centre is busy building its foundations with more exciting research projects and partnerships in the works, and I look forward to reporting on the Centre's progress.

# Message from Professor Karen Hussey

Director, Centre for Policy Futures

The Centre for Policy Futures aims to strengthen the connection of UQ's academic research with the practice of policy and investment decision-making.



In our first five months of operation, we have developed a five-year plan of action, established a significant funding agreement with CSIRO and cemented research relationships with UQ's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Energy, and the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Heritage, among others.

Our initial research programs are now in place, with our focus on policy firmly established in the fields of trade, foreign and security policy; science, technology and society; and sustainability through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These areas not only represent the University's strengths, they are also important issues of our time and ones where we can make a real difference.

We have established the Executive Committee and a number of outstanding candidates have applied for our initial research positions, with the majority of the Centre's researchers expected to be appointed in early 2018.

Our Visiting Fellows Program is open for applications and everything is in place for the Centre to function effectively within the University, including finance, reporting and HR systems.

With a clear idea of our role and focus, we have an ambitious agenda for 2018, to work with our partners inside and beyond the University.

Professor Karen Hussey is a leading Australian researcher in the field of public policy and governance, with a unique breadth and depth of research and policy engagement experience.

Trained as a political scientist and economist, she has conceived, designed, conducted and delivered cutting edge social science research focused on a range of sectors including climate change mitigation and adaptation, water, energy, waste, urban management, critical infrastructure, international trade, and biotechnology in the health system.

Professor Hussey has the rare competence to achieve a comparative perspective on policy and governance issues; develop innovative intellectual and policy approaches to sustainability and risk; and combine traditional disciplinary expertise with a close understanding of the particular attributes of policy problems.

Her most recent publications include *Australia, the EU and the New Trade Agenda*; *Climate, Energy and Water*; and *Environment and Sustainability: A Policy Handbook*.

# About the Centre for Policy Futures

Robust, rigorous research on the most challenging issues of our generation is at the core of the Centre for Policy Futures at The University Of Queensland (UQ).

By connecting academics with societal leaders, the Centre provides a forum for researchers to participate in policy debate, shape public policy and inform legislation both in Australia and internationally.

Working closely with governments, international organisations and key stakeholders, the Centre focuses on four pillars of activity; research, engagement, policy studies and executive education.

## Centre for Policy Futures (HASS Faculty) Executive Committee



## Research Themes

The Centre's researchers, affiliated research associates and visiting fellows pursue a vibrant research program focused on independent and peer-reviewed research, as well as commissioned reports, discussion papers and policy briefs. Working closely with governments, international organisations and key stakeholders, the Centre specialises in three policy areas.

Science, Technology and Society

Sustainable Development Goals and Capacity Building

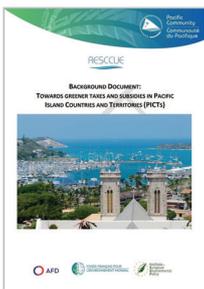
Trade, Foreign and Security Policy

# Sustainable Development Goals and Capacity Building

The United Nations has recognised the need to end poverty, protect the planet and boost prosperity through its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Centre's researchers are assisting government to design and implement policies to meet these goals including in the areas of health, energy and education. An important sub-theme of sustainability is the built environment, where the Centre's expertise in political economy, policy and governance is aiding the ambitious, evidence-based planning policy necessary to achieve long-term sustainable development.

## Highlights

### Towards greener taxes and subsidies in Pacific Island countries and territories



Centre Director Professor Karen Hussey was part of an eight-person team led by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, contracted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to undertake the study 'Towards Greener Taxes and Subsidies in Pacific Island Countries and Territories'. The resultant report presents information found for Vanuatu, Fiji and Polynesia to scope existing policy instruments and reform efforts.

Nine economic sectors are addressed in the document: mining, fisheries, agriculture, transport, waste management, water management, urban development, tourism and energy. The team provided examples of taxation and subsidies that have harmful or beneficial environmental impacts, and outlined the funding potential of tax and subsidy reforms. This work is ongoing and will extend to other Pacific Islands and Territories in the future.

### Coastal blue carbon: an introduction for policy-makers



The Centre for Policy Futures and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy led the development of this information product with valuable contributions from other members of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon.

The document describes some of the challenges and opportunities in developing policies and undertaking projects to protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems — mangroves, tidal marshes

and seagrasses. It also highlights some of the projects and countries that are leading the way in managing these challenges and opportunities.

### Pacific health governance: Knowledge translation for implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Pacific Island region is facing several major health challenges, which are predicted to intensify in coming decades. In response, the Centre's researchers, together with other UQ academics, will work with Pacific Island scholars, policy-makers and practitioners on an intensive research program to develop solutions. Aligned with the United Nations SDGs, the research will focus on: health security and biosecurity, climate change, water, sanitation and hygiene, health systems and policy, universal health coverage, non-communicable disease, nutrition and food security.

## Featured researchers



**Dr Claire Brolan**  
Research Fellow

Dr Claire Brolan received a three-year UQ Development Fellowship with the Centre to undertake her project, *Creating an evidence base for disability inclusive and gender inclusive sustainable development goal implementation in the Asia and Pacific region*. Through Dr Brolan's research, the Centre aims to become a leading international academic authority on the implementation of the SDG 2030 Agenda from an intersecting global health policy, rights and equity-oriented perspective.



**Dr Marnee Shay**  
Senior Research Fellow, School of Education and Centre for Policy Futures

Dr Marnee Shay is an Aboriginal educator and researcher, whose traditional connections are to Wagiman country (Daly River, Northern Territory) through her mother, and Scotland through her father. Marnee's research has focused on Indigenous education in 'flexi schools', Indigenous research methodologies and identity, health and wellbeing. Dr Shay has extensive experience working as a youth worker and teacher in diverse community settings.

# Science, Technology and Society

From genomics to synthetic biology, mining automation to renewable technologies, nanoparticles to whole-of-system digitisation, science and technology is changing the way we live and work. This research program enables governments and industry to collaboratively develop economic, policy and regulatory frameworks that both harness opportunities and reflect society's values.

## Highlights

### CSIRO-UQ Alliance

Comprehensively assessing the benefits, risks and uncertainties that new science and technology present for society is a key priority for research institutes and universities. Recognising their own responsibilities in this regard, CSIRO has established a significant initiative to oversee its investment in 'Science, Technology and Society' studies.

As part of that initiative, and with a 50:50 funding contribution, CSIRO and the Centre for Policy Futures signed a three-year \$1.5 million agreement in December 2017 to establish the CSIRO-UQ Alliance.

Working across CSIRO's Future Science Platforms, the Alliance will focus on three, inter-related areas of inquiry:

1. Accounting for the multidimensionality of risk
2. Unpacking trust in emerging technologies
3. Ensuring institutional effectiveness to seize opportunities and manage risk.

### Genomics in society: Policy and ethics

The Genomics in Society team is focusing on the use of genomics in a healthcare setting. Rapid advances in genomics are emerging from the laboratory to directly affect patient care, offering potential for targeting individual treatments and more effective preventive strategies — but the implications for health policy and practice are immense.

By investigating the ethical, legal, social, educational and policy implications of genomics, the team is developing robust methodological tools, recommendations and educational strategies for informed decision-making.

The Genomics in Society project will deliver a framework which provides an ethics-informed, evidence-base for applying genomics to clinical practice and strategies to inform Australia's health system planners and policy-makers. The framework will be informed by analysis of case studies across four areas of activity:

1. Biobanking
2. Predictive/pre-symptomatic testing
3. Therapeutics
4. Gene editing.



## Implementation of genomics into Queensland healthcare: ethical, legal and social implications and policy challenges

### Queensland Genomics Health Alliance (QGHA)

The Centre is part of a QGHA project to develop guidelines and policies that support the introduction of clinical genetics in an ethical, legal and socially responsible manner. Drawing on expertise from UQ, QUT and QIMR Berghofer, the project runs across six themes, from accessibility of genomics data for future use to genomic testing related to rural and Indigenous communities, and exploring existing research and clinical consent processes with the aim of developing a minimum requirement for consent in Queensland.



### Getting genomics into the clinic: The patient experience

In November the Centre hosted a lively panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges of genetic testing in the Australian healthcare system. Featuring the experiences of patients and their families who have encountered genetic testing in Australia, the discussion was prompted by the Australian and Queensland Governments' plans to use genomics in a clinic setting.

Clinical genomics promises to deliver rapid diagnosis for people with genetic disorders, and to allow informed decision-making for treatment and disease management. However, a number of challenges remain. How will genetic testing be funded to ensure equal access for all Australians? How will clinical genomics lead to the development of new therapies for thousands of rare genetic disorders? Will everyone understand what it means for them, and potentially, for their family members?

The event was co-hosted by Rare Voices Australia, a national alliance of people living with rare diseases, the UQ Business School and UQ School of Education. It was well attended by clinicians, scientists, healthcare workers, government officials and the public.

### Featured researchers



#### Dr Marie Mangelsdorf Research Fellow, Genomics in Society

Dr Marie Mangelsdorf is leading the Genomics in Society project that is developing methodological tools, recommendations and education strategies for informed decision-making for implementing genomics technology in a healthcare setting. Dr Mangelsdorf has an extensive background in molecular biology with a particular focus on identifying the genetic basis of neurological disorders such as intellectual disability and motor neuron disease. Her past experience in genomics research and in a molecular genetics diagnostic laboratory arm her with the skills and knowledge to manage a project and multidisciplinary research team weighing up the benefits of clinical genomics with the ethical, legal, economic and societal concerns and issues.



#### Dr Justine Lacey Research Director, CSIRO-UQ Alliance

Dr Justine Lacey leads CSIRO's Responsible Innovation Initiative. The initiative is a three-year research program examining the interface between science, technology innovation and the associated ethical, social and legal consequences of new and disruptive science and technologies. The initiative works closely with CSIRO's Future Science Platforms, which aim to develop the early stage science that underpins potentially disruptive innovation in order to reinvent and create new industries for Australia. Dr Lacey will spend considerable time seconded to UQ's Centre for Policy Futures to establish a strong research collaboration and raise the profile, scale and credibility of a Queensland-based centre of expertise in science and society.



#### Dr Caitlin Curtis Research Fellow

Dr Caitlin Curtis, a molecular biologist, is passionate about genomics, technology and its impacts on society, and is particularly interested in privacy issues surrounding genomic data. For the past few years, Dr Curtis has been analysing DNA from a range of species (from mosquitos to seals) to investigate ancient, mummified remains and modern bird species. She is also interested in forensics and conservation biology. Her versatile science and science communication skills make Dr Curtis a valuable member of the Centre for Policy Futures' Science, Technology and Society research program.

# Trade, Foreign and Security Policy

The pace, scale and complexity of global trade and finance have rapidly evolved over the last 60 years, placing enormous pressure on governments, policy-makers and industry – the recent backlash against international trade is a case in point. Similarly, the threats faced by countries and societies have changed dramatically in recent years with cyber-attacks and threats to climate, energy and water security now a feature of contemporary policy debate.

## Highlights

### In Conversation with Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans

In October, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Australian Foreign Minister, Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans AC QC treated a full house to an entertaining recount of the highs and lows of his public life as a student activist, civil libertarian, law reformer, industry minister, international policy maker, educator and politician.

Discussing his book, *Incorrigible Optimist: A Political Memoir*, Professor the Hon. Evans, explained why it is that, despite multiple disappointments, he continues to believe that a safer, saner and more decent world is achievable, and why, for all its frustrations, politics remains an indispensable profession not only for megalomaniacs but also idealists.

The event was held jointly by the Centre for Policy Futures and the UQ Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).



L-R: Associate Professor Richard Devetak, Head of School, School of Political Science and International Studies, Professor Karen Hussey, Director, Centre for Policy Futures, Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans AC QC, Dr Sarah Teitt, Deputy Director, R2P, Professor Alex Bellamy, Director, R2P

## Featured researchers



### Dr Greta Nabbs-Keller Research Associate

Dr Greta Nabbs-Keller's research interests include Indonesian civil-military relations,

Indonesia-China relations, politico-security developments in Southeast Asia and the Australia-Indonesia relations. Greta has worked previously in senior policy roles in both Canberra and Jakarta, and has extensive experience in strategic policy formulation, regional politico-security analysis, defence diplomacy and international engagement. She contributes regularly to policy debate on Australia-Indonesia relations and teaches into executive education programs for the National Security College (Australian National University); Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (Australian Defence College) and Indonesian Government agencies.



### Professor Alex Bellamy Senior Research Associate

Professor Alex Bellamy is Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at UQ. He is also Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute, New York and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. In 2008-9 he served as co-chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Study Group on the Responsibility to Protect and he currently serves as Secretary of the High Level Advisory Panel on the Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia, chaired by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan.

## Australia and the New Trade Agenda



Australia (together with New Zealand) is one of the few Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries with which the European Union (EU) does not have a comprehensive trade agreement. Australia and the EU are entering a new phase in the bilateral relationship, and the push towards a potential trade agreement has been steadily gaining momentum.

The issues confronting Australia and the EU in forthcoming negotiations are those confronting policy-makers around the globe. They are testing public tolerance of decisions once viewed as dull and technocratic, and are redefining the academic treatment of trade policy.

Co-authored by Professor Karen Hussey, *Australia and the New Trade Agenda* brings together diverse and deeply practical contributions to the forthcoming policy debate on

the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement, highlighting potential points of difficulty and possible gains from the agreement.

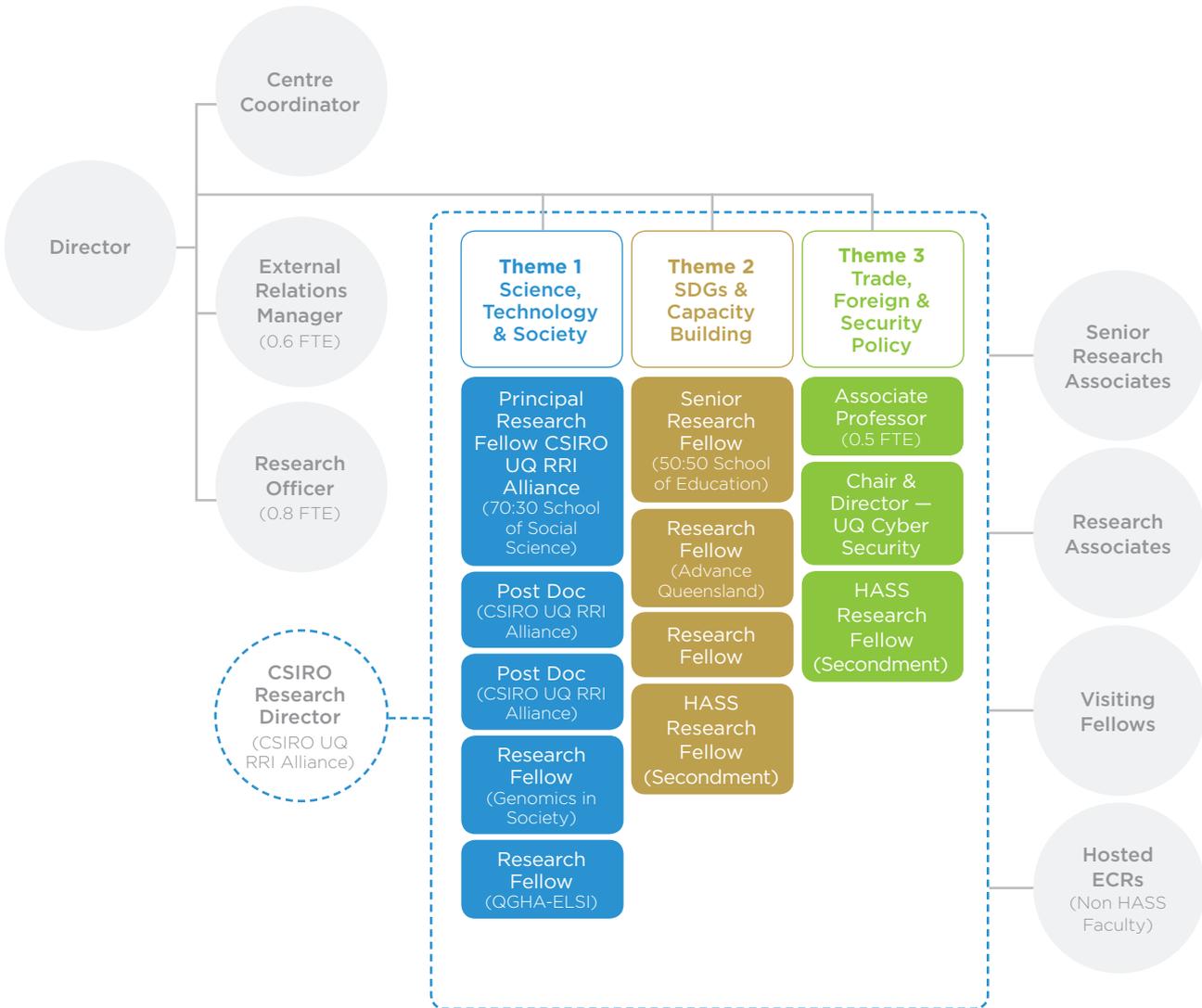
This book makes two further contributions: it adds to the body of work reappraising the contemporary Australia-EU relationship; and provides a snapshot of current issues in trade policy—the ‘new trade agenda’—which is more complex and politically visible than ever.

## UQ Cyber Security

The Centre is a key partner in UQ’s new institution-wide, multi-faculty initiative to address the technical, social and policy dimensions of global cyber security. This broad, interdisciplinary centre will include teaching, research, and private and public sector engagement. The initiative will deepen and co-ordinate UQ’s existing capability by bringing together relevant units from across the University to form a world-leading cyber security enterprise.



# People



## Executive Committee

The Centre's work is overseen by an Executive Committee, which is comprised of:

- **Professor Karen Hussey** (Chair)  
Director, Centre for Policy Futures, HASS Faculty
- **Professor Tim Dunne**,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Office of the Provost
- **Professor Andrew Griffiths**,  
Executive Dean, Faculty of Business, Economics and Law
- **Professor Julie Duck**,  
Executive Dean, HASS Faculty
- **Professor Annemaree Carroll**,  
Associate Dean (Research), HASS Faculty
- **Professor Greg Marston**,  
Head of School, School of Social Science, HASS Faculty
- **Professor Mark Western**,  
Director, Institute for Social Science Research, HASS Faculty

# Publications

## Senior Research Associates

Professor Peta Ashworth  
Professor Alex Bellamy  
Professor Simon Bronitt  
Emeritus Professor John Foster  
Professor Charles Gilks  
Professor Ben Hankamer  
Professor Brian Head  
Associate Professor Damian Hine  
Professor Ian Lilley  
Associate Professor Martine Maron  
Associate Professor Matt McDonald  
Dr Frank Mols  
Professor Mark Moran  
Professor John Quiggin  
Emeritus Professor Roger Scott  
Dr Owain Williams  
Professor Kerrie Wilson

## Research Associates

Ms Megan Evans  
Dr Nina Hall  
Mr Ray Maher  
Dr Greta Nabbs-Keller  
Dr Alastair Stark  
Dr Phillip Wild  
Dr Bradd Witt

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Great Barrier Reef Independent Review Group (2017) *Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan: progress on implementation*, Queensland.

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Steele, W., Hussey, K. and Dovers, S. (2017) What's Critical about Critical Infrastructure?, *Urban Policy and Research*, 35:1, pp. 74-86.

Stock, A., Bourne, G., Steffen, W. and Hussey, K. (2017) *Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market*, Climate Council of Australia, Sydney.

Stock, P., Bourne, G. and Hussey, K. (2017) *Renewables: powering Queensland's future*, Climate Council of Australia, Sydney.

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The University of Queensland's Centre for Policy Futures, Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy and International Partnership for Blue Carbon (2017) *Coastal Blue Carbon: An Introduction for Policy Makers*, Canberra.

The University of Queensland's Genomics in Society research team (2017) Submission to the *Draft Implementation Plan - National Health Genomics Policy Framework*, Commonwealth Department of Health.

Watkins, Emma et al. (2017) *Towards greener taxes and subsidies in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)* Institute for European and Environmental Policy, London, UK.



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