

Preparing for White Swans: Climate Change and opportunities for the economy



The phrase 'Black Swan', popularized by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his work of the same name, has become popular following the global economic crisis to refer to highly improbable events that have a profound impact on our economies and livelihood.

Climate change is a White Swan. While not unforeseen like the Black Swans identified by Taleb, but it is still a Swan: its impacts are highly uncertain which makes management and planning difficult. Climate change has moved to the top of the agenda at meetings such as the G8. With it comes the opportunity to develop resilience, and maintain profits and profitability.

In this presentation hosted by the NZ Climate Change Research Institute at Victoria University of Wellington three prominent New Zealand commentators explain the impact of climate change on our health, properties, infrastructure and industries.

Dr Jim Salinger, well known climate change scientist, will review the latest climate change science and its potential impacts on NZ industries and communities.

Professor of Trade and Economics Caroline Saunders will speak on what this means for our agricultural trade, carbon foot-print and business opportunities in a changing world.

Financial journalist Rod Oram will talk on emissions trading and compare New Zealand's climate change targets with our trading partners' targets, and what this means for trade.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor David Bibby will chair the meeting.

DATE: Tuesday 1st November

TIME : 4.30 – 6.30pm

VENUE : Hunter Council Chamber, Hunter Building, Kelburn Parade

ENQUIRIES : liz.thomas@vuw.ac.nz phone 463 5507

About the speakers:

Dr Salinger is an Auckland-based climate change scientist, formerly at NIWA, and now at the University of Auckland and the University of Tasmania. He was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Professor Caroline Saunders of Lincoln University has 20 years research expertise in the UK and New Zealand. Her current research includes evaluating trade and the environment, including assessment of international markets policies and their impact on agricultural development.

Rod Oram is an award winning financial and business journalist and Radio New Zealand National/Sunday Star Times commentator. He has commented widely on the Emissions Trading Scheme, climate change and the various pressures on trade in the 21st century.