



## **Applying economics to wicked problems: Protecting the Great Barrier Reef**

Join us for a webinar on May 06, 2020 at 1:00 PM AEST.

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Professor John Rolfe gave the 2020 AARES Presidential Address on this topic to the AARES Annual Conference in February. He reprises this important talk for us in our latest AARES webinar.

His theme was that simple policies and unrelated single instruments are ineffective when it comes to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). While current work on costing and valuation are providing better insights into where funds can be allocated, more needs to be done to reveal the tradeoffs and advantages of different choices. Many of the major challenges facing the GBR are economic, including slow adoption rates of better agricultural practices, improving cost-effectiveness, setting targets, selecting policy mechanisms and prioritising where funding and effort should be allocated. It appears that to maintain community trust it is important to show that funds are being used efficiently, are targeted carefully, and maintain the tourism and recreation sectors alongside the environment. To achieve this there needs to be better alignment between science modelling and economic assessment, and greater recognition of the multiple interrelationships and feedback loops typical in wicked problems, as faced by what is arguably Australia's most iconic asset.

### **Our Speaker:**



John Rolfe is a resource economist who is Professor of Regional Economic Development in the School of Business and Law at the CQ University at Rockhampton, and a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Professor Rolfe has a number of research interests, but specialises in non-market valuation, regional development, environmental, resource and agricultural economic issues, agricultural adoption, and economic impact assessment in regional areas. In 2019 he was appointed by the Queensland and Australian Governments to the Great Barrier Reef Independent Science Panel.

### **How to Join:**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Any problems with registering ring Rod McInnes, Webinar Co-ordinator on 0404822314.

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