

## 2022 AARES Distinguished Life Member

### Professor Caroline Saunders ONZM FRSNZ



Caroline Saunders is Director of the Agribusiness and Economic Research Unit at Lincoln University. She has been director for 20 years and the unit has grown providing research on a wider range of applied topics to a wide range of clients. Prior to then, Caroline was a member of the Commerce faculty at Lincoln University having come from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Newcastle University in the UK.

Caroline's research focus is sustainable wellbeing (social, economic, environmental and cultural) impacts of policy and practice. She has undertaken a wide range of economic evaluation studies. This includes increasing primary sector export returns, capturing greater value from global value chains and analysing the value given by consumers to different credence attributes ranging from food safety, benefits of disease control to environmentally 'cleaner' and more sustainable production. Current research also includes an assessment of international markets and their policies and their impact on development. This includes trade modelling research with the development of the Lincoln Trade and Environmental Model (LTEM) which has been used for evaluating economic impact of irrigation (MAF); trade negotiations by MFAT with China; trade negotiations with EU on preferential access for sheep and dairy products, by Defra to evaluate the trade and environmental impacts of a free trade agreement with Mercosur countries, and more recently the EU commission on the impacts of FTA with the EU and Brexit.

She was also an author on the Food Miles Report which was used extensively by the New Zealand Government, New Zealand businesses, and UK sellers of New Zealand produce to advocate for New Zealand products and overseas markets.

Caroline has been a practising researcher for more than 40 years since beginning her PhD thesis in 1980. She has produced over 300 academic publications, research reports and conference presentations over that period.

Caroline undertakes research for a wide range of private and public bodies both in NZ and overseas. These include the EU commission, DEFRA, FAO, OECD, MPI, MFAT, Treasury, MFE, MBIE, NZTE, Fonterra, MOT, Beef and Lamb and various other industries and sector groups.

Caroline has been President of the New Zealand Association of Economists from 2001-2003, president of the New Zealand Association of Agricultural and Resource Economists from 2002-2003 and President of the UK Agricultural Economics Society from 2019-2021.

She is a Crown appointee on the Board of Landcare Research, Wool Research of New Zealand and a member of the Reserve Bank Monetary Policy Committee. She was awarded Life membership of the New Zealand Association of Economists in 2019, Life membership of the New Zealand Association of Agricultural and Resource Economists in 2022 and Distinguished Life Member Award of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society in 2023. Caroline was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2009, the NZIER Economist of the Year in 2007 and made a Fellow of The Royal Society of New Zealand in 2021.