

2017 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Emeritus Professor Ross Cullen



Ross Cullen is Professor of Resource Economics, Emeritus at Lincoln University, New Zealand. At the time of his retirement in 2012 he had lectured, supervised and researched at Lincoln University from 1991. Ross first studied economics while completing a Diploma in Agriculture, and a Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management in 1970 at (then) Lincoln College, before returning for three years to farming. After three years driving up production levels on a family-owned farm, and conscious of diminishing marginal productivity, he departed for further University study and a new career. Ross completed a BCom (Hons) in economics at The University of Otago, 1974-77; his first research publication, on export incentives, stemmed from his honours dissertation. His first professional position was Assistant Lecturer in economics at The University of Otago, which enabled him to complete a PhD by thesis; The inter-country diffusion of pharmaceutical products.

After completion of his PhD, Ross moved to teaching and research on resource, environmental and ecological economics. His research since 1982, often in collaboration with colleagues in allied field of agriculture, environmental management, economic geology, ecology, and tourism management, has applied economic analysis to diverse issues impacting natural resources and the environment. He has published in over 50 different journals with clusters in: environmental risk - biodiversity, habitat and environmental sustainability; resource management – fisheries, forestry, water, natural area, mineral and energy policies; innovation and adoption studies; evaluation of the benefits and costs of environmental projects often using non market valuation or ecosystem services methods. Ross has over 180 research publications listed on ResearchGate.net; he has more than 3020 citations on Google Scholar and an h-Index of 26.

During his career Ross received research grants and provided input to many New Zealand agencies including: Animal Health Board, Auckland Research Council, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Environmental Risk Management Authority, Forest Research Institution (now Scion), Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (now GNS), Landcare Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (now MPI), Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. Ross held several leadership positions at Lincoln University including Director of AERU, Head of Department of Economics and Marketing, and the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance, and Deputy Director of the Faculty of Commerce with a particular focus for a decade on postgraduate students.

Ross served on the Editorial Boards of three academic journals: Journal of Environmental Management, Review of Applied Economics, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics and was AJARE co-editor for volumes 55-57. He co-edited with Deborah Peterson a special Issue of AJARE on 'Mineral and Energy Resources', Issue 56(2), and with Piran White a special issue of Wildlife Research published by CSIRO focusing on 'Prioritising and evaluating biodiversity projects', Issue 40(2). He has contributed to three professional associations, NZAE, NZARES and AARES. Ross was an AARES Federal Councillor (2005 - 2006, 2010 - 2012), LOC Chair for the 2007 AARES conference in Queenstown, President in 2015, Chair of the AARES Strategic Planning Committee, 2015 - 2017, and Chair of the AARES Postgraduate Thesis Award Committee, 2017.