CAMERON HEPBURN - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Cameron Hepburn is the Director of the Economics of Sustainability Programme, based at the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School. He is also Professor of Environmental Economics at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, a Fellow at New College, Oxford, and a Professorial Research Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics. He has published widely on energy, resources and environmental challenges across a range of disciplines, including engineering, biology, philosophy, economics, public policy and law, drawing on his degrees in law, engineering and doctorate in economics. Cameron provides advice on energy and climate policy to government ministers and international institutions around the world.

JASON GRAY - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jason Gray is Chief of the Climate Change Program Evaluation Branch, which oversees and implements the Cap-and-Trade Program at the California Air Resources Board (CARB). He previously served as manager of the Market Monitoring Section of the Cap-and-Trade Program, and as a staff attorney with CARB, where he advised the Board and its staff on the development and implementation of air pollution control regulations, including greenhouse gas reporting and verification regulations, compliance offset protocols, and the offsets provisions of the Cap-and-Trade Program. His current duties include supervising the implementation of the Cap-and-Trade Program, including linkage efforts with Québec and Ontario. Before entering the legal profession, Jason worked on environmental education, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development projects with the U.S. Peace Corps and WWF in Gabon.

MURRAY SHERWIN, CNZM - SPEAKER

Murray is an economist with over 35 years’ experience across a wide range of public policy roles. He is the Chair of the Productivity Commission. His previous roles include: Chief Executive and Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand; Chair, Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Commission; member of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank in Washington DC; member of the Prime Minister’s Advisory Group; and a member of the Advisory Board of the New Zealand Debt Management Office. Murray is a Charter Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management. Other current roles include: Chair, Strategic Risk and Resilience Panel - advising the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on national risk issues; and Chair, Innovation Partnership – a group of private and public sector entities supporting smart use of internet technology.

GEOFF LEWIS - SPEAKER

Geoff has worked extensively in the area of the economics of productivity, including cross-country comparative analysis and productivity measurement. During the 16 years he spent at The Treasury, Geoff worked in the fields of productivity and innovation, financial markets saving and investment, New Zealand’s economic growth performance, Auckland’s economic performance, social capital and economic performance and all areas of tax policy. Geoff was a Principal Adviser on the better urban planning inquiry and has led the Commission’s inquiries into boosting productivity in the services sector (2014), international freight transport services (2012) and the trans-Tasman economic integration study (2012). Geoff has a Master of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees from Canterbury University and, prior to joining the Treasury, he held academic posts with the Universities of Waikato, Auckland and Bristol.

SUZI KERR - SPEAKER

Suzi Kerr is currently a Senior Fellow at Motu and an Adjunct Professor at Victoria University. She graduated from Harvard University with a PhD in Economics. From 1998 to 2009 she was Director and Senior Fellow at Motu. In 2010 she won the NZIER Economics Award. She has also worked at the University of Maryland, Resources for the Future, the Joint Center for the Science and Policy of Global Change at MIT, and more recently was a Visiting Professor at Stanford University and at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Her current research work focuses on climate change. She investigates domestic and international climate change policy with special emphasis on emissions pricing and land use in both the tropics and New Zealand. She also leads work on climate change impacts and adaptation in New Zealand.
JOHN CARNEGIE - PANELLIST

John is the Executive Director, Energy & Infrastructure at BusinessNZ, New Zealand’s peak business advocacy body. He is an experienced regulatory economist with over two decade’s experience in public policy and energy markets. John has previously held roles at Treasury, Ministry for Economic Development, the electricity market operator, and Genesis Energy. John specialises in energy and climate change policy and its implications for business. He was a member of the Treasury-led Emissions Trading Stationary Energy and Industrial Process Technical Advisory Group, the Ministry for the Environment Electricity Allocation Factor contact group, the NZ Smart Grid Forum and a member of the NZ official delegation to the international climate change negotiations between 2009-2015. He was a member of the Electricity Authority’s Wholesale Advisory Group from its inception until 2017.

JOHN HANCOCK - PANELLIST

John Hancock is an independent consultant to utility companies and their suppliers, drawing on his valuable combination of deep experience in both technology and deregulation as key dimensions of the strategic environment in the sector. He has a 20 year career in the utilities industry including 14 years with Ernst & Young, Capgemini and Hewlett Packard in Asia and the Pacific. John has worked with over 50 clients across 11 countries.

ALISON DEWES - PANELLIST

A fourth generation dairy farmer and second generation veterinarian, Alison is a firm believer that our future food production systems have to profitable and resilient while protecting and replenishing ecological health. Her Masters of Science (2015) focused on how Upper Waikato dairy farms can be profitable while achieving the lowest possible environmental impact. She is currently Head of Environment for Pamu and previously worked for Landcorp, Nestle Australia, Commonwealth Bank, and Intelact Australia. She has skills in animal health and nutrition, agricultural business performance, adult education, policy and ecosystem health. She was elected to the NZ Veterinary Board in 2015 and is on the National Environmental Reference Group for Landcorp. She was a finalist for the NZI sustainability champion in 2014, received a commendation for community impact for her work with farmers, and was a finalist in the 2015 Women of Influence Awards in Public Policy.

TINA POROU, ONZM - PANELLIST

Tina (Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Tūwharetoa) is the Lead Technical Advisor to the Iwi Advisors Group. She was a member of the Climate Change Iwi Leaders Group (now a part of Pou Taiao – Iwi Leaders Group). Tina is the founding director of Poipoia and holds board of governance positions on the Lake Taupo Forest Trust, the Wharerata Forest Company and the Pahiitaua Incorporation. For the last two years she has worked as an Iwi technician for the Iwi Leaders Group. She is a Sir Peter Blake Trust Leader and a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Her former roles include head of Sustainability, Environment and Communities at Contact Energy.

DAME ANNE SALMOND - PANELLIST

Dame Anne is an eminent historian, writer and academic. She worked closely with Eruera and Amiria Stirling, noted elders of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui and Ngati Porou, a collaboration which led to the publication of several books. Salmond has received numerous literary awards, scholarships and academic prizes. In 1995 she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to NZ history, in 2004 she received a Prime Minister’s Award for Literary Achievement for non-fiction, and in 2007 she became an inaugural Fellow of the NZ Academy of the Humanities. Salmond was named the 2013 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year. In the same year she won the Royal Society of NZ Rutherford Medal, the highest award instituted by the Royal Society of New Zealand at the request of the Government to recognise exceptional contributions to the advancement and promotion of public awareness, knowledge and understanding in any field of science, mathematics, social science, or technology.

CATHERINE LEINING - SPEAKER

Catherine Leining joined Motu as a Policy Fellow in November 2013. Her work at Motu focuses on shaping a low-emission future for New Zealand and the evolution of emissions trading in New Zealand and internationally. She has held policy positions at the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Wellington City Council and the NZTA. She served as a negotiator in the New Zealand delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations and helped design the NZ ETS. She trained as a Climate Leader under The Climate Reality Project launched by Al Gore.