Choice Modelling in the Development of Natural Resources Management Strategies in NSW

KASIA MAZUR

Monday 25 August 08
12:30 – 1:30
Seminar Room 1, 2nd floor, J.G. Crawford Building (no. 13)

ABSTRACT:

Increasing environmental problems in Australia such as declining water quality and quantity, land clearing, climate change, loss of native species and salinity have raised public awareness and concerns over natural resource management (NRM). Government expenditure on the environment has risen significantly during the past few years (Treasury, 2007). Due to budget limitations only some of the environmental problems can be addressed. This raises a question of how these funds should be allocated in order to achieve the best value for money and to ensure that the best outcomes are obtained.

The objective of this research is to explore the application of Choice Modelling to estimate the values (including both use and non-use values) held by residents of NSW for a range of environmental benefits provided by potential NRM strategies in specific NSW Catchment Management Authorities. These values will be estimated in a format that makes them suitable for integration into the bio-physical modelling constructs of MOSAIC (an integrated spatial optimisation model developed by ABARE) and consistent with the welfare economic principles that underpin benefit cost analysis. A further objective of this research is to explore scale and distance effects on willingness to pay for improvements in the environment. This study also aims to test the impact of including a ‘provisional rule’ on incentive compatibility.

Kasia Mazur is a PhD student in the EMD program and Research Economist at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE).

ALL WELCOME