

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Government policy conference tackles ministerial resignations, crisis management and pulp mills

Gunn's proposed pulp mill and political leadership when crisis is the norm are two topics being covered in this week's National Public Policy Network 2010 Conference hosted by the School of Government at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

Local, national, international policy experts will tackle a diverse range of issues, including ministerial resignations and whether policy analysts are up to the task of advising governments, at the Hobart Function Centre at Elizabeth St Pier in Hobart.

The Head of the UTAS School of Government, Associate Professor Kate Crowley, said the conference is a well-timed reality check on policy capacity.

"With State and Federal elections looming, now is a good time to focus on the challenge of maintaining integrity in public policy making," she said.

"The academic community is more focused than ever on scrutinising public policy to ensure that it is effective, accountable and capable of achieving real goals.

"The more academic reflection on these issues the better."

Keynote speakers at the conference include scholars of international standing, including UTAS Professor Rod Rhodes and Professor Michael Howlett of both Singapore and Simon Fraser Universities.

Conference highlights include:

- Prof Rhodes: *Story-telling, Protocols and Rituals: Managing a Ministerial Resignation*. Prof Rhodes will discuss the fraught challenge of managing a ministerial resignation documenting his observations of just such an event in the British government.
- Prof Howlett: *Re-visiting Meltsner: Policy advice systems and the nature of professional policy analysis in government*. Prof Howlett will be reflecting on whether policy analysts are up to the task of advising governments.
- Professor Jenny Stewart of the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy will launch her new book: *Public Policy Values*. Prof Stewart will discuss how today's political leaders are attempting to manage policy at a time when crisis upon crisis is no longer the exception

but becoming the norm; how do public policy ethics survive circumstances like this and what do they end up meaning?

- Dr Fred Gale, UTAS School of Government will discuss the topic: *Present Consequences of Past Deals: Clientelism, Forest Policy and Tasmania's Tamar Valley Pulp Mill.*
- Former Senator Margaret Reynolds will address the conference dinner at the Henry Jones Art Hotel tonight. She is currently State Manager of National Disability Services in Hobart.

For the full conference program see:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/government/PPN2010/HomePagePPN.html>

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