

As the 2002 Conference of Australian Economists draws near, I welcome all who have registered for it. If you have not yet registered, I hope that you will do so as soon as possible.

The Conference begins with cocktails at 6:30p.m. on Monday 30 September. It will be formally opened at 9a.m. on Tuesday 1 October and will conclude on the afternoon of Thursday 3 October. On Friday 4 October there will be a Business Symposium on 'The Economic and Business Implications of the Ageing Babyboomers'.

The venue for both the Conference and the Business Symposium will be the Stamford Grand Hotel at Glenelg. The hotel is at the end of Adelaide's only surviving tramline, which affords convenient access to the city.

The Conference proper will consist of some special lectures, a number of theme sessions and about 60 sessions for the presentation of submitted papers. Obviously, there will have to be many simultaneous sessions, and you will have to choose which to attend. The current provisional time-table is shown on this website. There will undoubtedly be some changes, but the program is sufficiently firm for you to give thought to your choice of sessions to attend.

The theme sessions will be about the electricity market, the economics of wine, the supply and use of water, fiscal equalisation, the Japanese economy, international trade in services and microeconomic reform.

Our invited Conference speakers will include economists from abroad: David Card (University of California at Berkeley), Ed Barbier (University of Wyoming), Albert Breton (University of Toronto) and Bob Nobay (London School of Economics). We are hoping to arrange for Frank Wolak (Stanford University) to participate by video hook-up in our theme session about the Regulation of the Electricity Market.

We could not have arranged so ambitious a program without the generous support of our sponsors:

- the Queensland Treasury (Major Sponsor)
- TransGrid (Major Sponsor)
- the Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity (SA),
- South Australian Water and United Water (joint Major Sponsor)
- the South Australian Independent Industry Regulator (Sponsor)
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Sponsor)
- the Reserve Bank of Australia (Sponsor)
- the Commonwealth Grants Commission (Sponsor)
- the Productivity Commission (Sponsor); the Department of Treasury & Finance (SA) (Sponsor)
- the Department of Industry & Trade (SA) (Sponsor)
- the Commonwealth Treasury (Sponsor)
- AGL and ETSA (Joint Sponsor)
- the ACCC (Contributing Supporter)
- and the Adelaide City Council (Contributing Supporter).

I warmly thank all of these for their help. I also acknowledge the 'in kind' assistance of the three South Australian universities.

I hope that you will find the Conference enjoyable and rewarding.

Keith Hancock

President

Economic Society of Australia (South Australia)