

# PUBLIC SEMINAR

THE NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO:

## Environmental Regulation through Voluntary Agreements: Innovations from the agricultural sector in Europe and Australia

**Karen Hussey,**

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Europe Centre, ANU

**Thursday 10 March, 12.30pm**

at the National Europe Centre

The Australian National University, 1 Liversidge Street,

(Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House)

The environmental impact of agricultural production has led governments in Australia and the European Union to experiment with new tools of environmental management. Significant initiatives are underway to combine efficiency in production with improved environmental outcomes and there has been a shift away from command-and-control style instruments to more flexible, market based instruments, otherwise known as New Environmental Policy Instruments (NEPIs). Much has been written on the definition of NEPIs as an environmental policy mechanism and the advantages of one NEPI over another, as well as their potential use in the agricultural sector. This study focuses on the use of voluntary agreements to achieve environmental outcomes in the agricultural sector. Of particular interest is what might be termed a fifth NEPI called 'organisation', which refers to the role of actors either within the government structure or external to government that advocate and implement the use of NEPIs. The role of these organizations, which include conservation organizations, government agencies, and industry bodies have emerged alongside the proliferation of voluntary agreements, contributing to the 'pragmatic, bottom-up mode of implementation' and decentralization of environmental policy. This paper, which is part of a broader program of research, offers some preliminary analysis of these organizations, and the methods through which VAs are encouraged and implemented in the agricultural sectors in Europe and Australia.

Karen Hussey was appointed as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Europe Centre in October 2004 to undertake a 3-year GRDC-funded project. Karen is also currently completing her doctorate from the University of Melbourne, which explores the EU and Australia's engagement in global environmental governance. Prior to that she completed a Masters of Economics (European Economics and Public Affairs) from the Dublin European Institute, at University College Dublin, National University of Ireland.

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