Rescuing the United States from Fiscal Crisis

Friday 10 June 2011 3.30pm – 4.30pm, followed by light refreshments

Professor Steve Redburn
Project Director, Peterson-Pew National Commission on Budget Reform
Project Director, US National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Public Administration
Commission on the US Fiscal Future
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Law Theatre, Law Building #5, Fellows Road, ANU

The US owes $14.4 trillion or $129,000 per taxpayer in debt, and every year into the future will add another $1.3 trillion in debt from budget deficits. The very viability of the nation is not only at risk, but other economies around the world are in jeopardy.

In his only public speaking engagement in Canberra, Professor Steve Redburn, one of the leading experts in the US on the fiscal crisis, asks, What options can the US pursue to return itself to fiscal solvency? How much “pain” is expected versus the “gain” realized from various options? and, What are the politics of the current standoff in the US in Congress and Obama Administration in resolving the issues?


Professor Redburn is currently directing a study of the immigration enforcement system for the National Academy of Sciences. In 2008 – 2009, he was study director for a joint committee of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), whose report on options to address the long-term budget challenge, ‘Choosing the Nation’s Fiscal Future’, was released in January, 2010.

He is also a NAPA Fellow, and has more than 25 years experience in government as a senior public servant in the US Office of Management and Budget, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2007 he worked as advisor to the budget director of Kosovo for a USAID development project.

Professor Redburn has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is an adjunct faculty member of the School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University, and an Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University - Australia.