

ANU PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2008

ANU Trevor Swan Distinguished Lectures in Economics

DO INCREASES IN RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

Nicholas Hanley

Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Stirling



Thursday 3 April, 4.30–6pm

Lecture Theatre, Innovations Building 124, Eggleston Road, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

A reception will follow the lecture.

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Resource productivity is increasingly seen as an important aspect of sustainability by governments worldwide. Making more with less seems to be intuitive in terms of reducing the burden on the environment while allowing for economic development. In the UK policy context, there appears to be an acceptance that enhanced resource productivity is 'good for the environment'. However, there is a debate in the literature concerning the possibility that any beneficial impact on the environment may be partially ('rebound') or even more than wholly ('backfire') offset. In this lecture Professor Hanley clarifies the theoretical conditions under which such effects would occur.

Nicholas Hanley is Professor of Environmental Economics at the University of Stirling. Prior to taking up his post at Stirling, he held Chairs in Economics at the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. Professor Hanley's main areas of research are environmental cost-benefit analysis, stated preference methods for environmental valuation, the economics of water quality, tradeable permit markets, energy economics and the economics of sustainable development. He is co-author of two well-used textbooks in environmental economics, with Jason Shogren and Ben White, and has acted as a consultant to many UK government departments and agencies, the World Bank and the OECD.