Australian society expects investments in research to be translated into public benefits. On 7 December 2015 the Australian Government launched its National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA). One of the measures within the agenda is for Australia to introduce a national impact and engagement assessment, which will examine how universities are translating their research into economic, social and other benefits and encourage greater collaboration between universities, industries and other research users (www.arc.gov.au/engagement-and-impact-assessment), including the public service. A pilot assessment is being developed by the Australian Research Council for implementation in 2018.

The University’s 2017 Strategic Plan emphasizes the need for its research to result in positive impacts. As the national university, ANU in particular is expected to generate knowledge that serves the needs of the public service and the nation more broadly. A Public Policy Hub is being established. In 2017, the ANU Academic Board is considering the question of how to measure the impacts of research so that the academic community can better evaluate and enhance its work. The symposium will bring together PhD scholars, early career researchers, public service and academic leaders to consider how we can better measure research impacts to enhance benefits for society. This symposium will contribute to the development of the national impact and engagement assessment.

Organised by the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Crawford School of Public Policy and the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation.

Supported by the Department of Defence and the Australian Public Service Commission.
AGENDA

20 September 2017
Dinner and introductory keynote speech
Common Room, University House, ANU

6pm Welcome drinks

6.30pm Introduction and commence dinner
Professor Michael Cardew-Hall, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Innovation), ANU

7.30pm Keynote address
Professor Bruce Chapman, Research School of Economics, ANU
“Research impact on policy: What should academics do and what should they avoid?”

9pm Close

21 September 2017
Symposium on Assessing Research Impacts for Society
Canberry and Springbank rooms, Crawford Building, ANU

8.30am Registration and coffee

9am Opening statement
Professor Brian Schmidt, ANU Vice-Chancellor

1ST SESSION
What does the Australian community want from research?
Chair: Professor Frank Jotzo, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

9.10am Panel of presenters
Mr Michael Shoebridge, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Defence “What the Australian public service needs from academic researchers.”
Dr Sasha Courville, National Australia Bank “What business needs from academic researchers.”
Mr Marc Purcell, CEO, Australian Council for International Development “What civil society needs from academic researchers.”

9.50am Panel questions and answers

10.30am Morning tea

2ND SESSION
Defining a research impact assessment framework
Chair: Dr Katherine Daniell, Fenner School of Environment and Society

11am Panel of presenters
Dr Chris Curran, Australian Research Council, “How the ARC is considering assessing research impact”
Dr Douglas Robertson “How ANU is considering assessing research impact.”
Dr Andrew Alford, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research “How does ACIAR want research partners to measure research impact for society?”
Professor Michael Wesley, Dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific “The CAP policy impact and engagement framework.”

11.40am Panel questions and answers

12.30pm Lunch

3RD SESSION
What university institutional changes are required to enhance research impact assessment?
Chair: Dr Sarah Milne, Crawford School of Public Policy

1.20pm Panel of presenters
Paul Hubbard and Martine Cosgrove, Sir Roland Wilson Scholars, present five minute case studies on how their PhD research will translate into public policy benefit.
Dr Tom Keenan, Senior Advisor Planning, Performance and Evaluation Strategy, Market Vision and Innovation, CSIRO “How does CSIRO measure research impact for society?”
Associate Professor Lorrae van Kerkhoff, Fenner School of Environment and Society “What can be learnt from the ANU long term research sites case study.”

2pm Panel questions and answers

2.30pm Afternoon tea

4TH SESSION
What changes in universities are required to enhance research impact assessment?
Chair: Mr Rick Zentelis, Sir Roland Wilson Scholar and Department of Defence

2.50pm Small groups
Facilitated by Sir Roland Wilson scholars discuss institutional changes within universities that may be required to enhance research impact assessment. Different questions to be assigned to each group.

3.30pm Report back

5TH SESSION
Synthesis and conclusion
Chair: Dr Jamie Pittock, Fenner School of Environment and Society

3.55pm Panel discussion: 5 minute reflections followed by next steps
Professor Helen Sullivan, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy
Professor Saul Cunningham, Director, Fenner School of Environment and Society
Professor Jacqueline Lo, Chair of Academic Board, ANU

4.40pm Next steps and closing statement
Dr Jamie Pittock

4.45pm Close