

## Curriculum Vitae: Jack Sinden

### CONTENTS

1. Personal details
  2. Summary
  3. Contributions to teaching
    - 3.1 Quantity of teaching
    - 3.2 Quality of teaching
    - 3.3 Leadership in curriculum development
    - 3.4 A widely-prescribed textbook
  4. Research achievements
    - 4.1 Quantity of publications
    - 4.2 Quality of publication
    - 4.3 Awards of external research grants
    - 4.4 Collaboration with leading international forest and resource economists
    - 4.5 Member of editorial boards and referee of journal papers
    - 4.6 Research supervision
  5. Service to the community
    - 5.1 Participating in community affairs: costs of protecting native vegetation on farms (1997-continuing)
    - 5.2 Participating in community affairs: environmental management systems for horticulture (2004-continuing)
  6. Service to the University
    - 6.1 The range of committees and positions
    - 6.2 Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters)
- Appendix A Further evaluations of teaching quality  
Excellence in teaching quality  
Ratings on key teaching criteria
- Appendix B List of publications  
Books (3)  
Journal articles: sole author (31)  
Journal articles: joint author (55)  
Joint author papers in refereed conference proceedings (3)

## 1. PERSONAL DETAILS

### **John Alfred Sinden**

BSc (Hons, upper second class) University of Wales 1961, in forest science.  
This four-year degree was completed in three years.  
M F University of Michigan 1962, in economics and forest economics.  
Ph D University of Wales 1965, in forest economics

### **Present position, since 1982**

Associate Professor  
School of Business, Economics and Public Policy  
University of New England  
Armidale NSW 2351  
Australia

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### **Previous positions**

- Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of New England, 1972 – 1981
- Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of New England, 1967 - 1971.
- Silvicultural Officer, Forest Research Institute, now part of Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 1965 - 1967.

### **Study leave positions**

- University of Arizona, 1982, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Visiting Professor. Taught courses in recreation economics, and resource policy analysis.
- Yale University, 1977, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Visiting Lecturer. Accepted a return invitation to teach a course in the valuation of environmental benefits and costs, jointly with Professor A C Worrell.

- Yale University, 1973, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Visiting Lecturer. Accepted an invitation to teach a course in the valuation of environmental benefits and costs, jointly with Professor A C Worrell.
- Oregon State University, 1971, Department of Agricultural Economics, Research Associate. Undertook research into the valuation of benefits and costs of the environment.

## **2. SUMMARY**

As the evidence will demonstrate, I have maintained an outstanding record in teaching, a first-class record in research, and an exemplary record of service to the University and the community.

My teaching goals focus on market relevance, excellence and viability, by emphasising the application of economic principles to problem solving and by enthusing students about my discipline. Surveys by the University's Teaching and Learning Centre show that I score consistently and substantially above the School means on all questions, and have been repeatedly rated as an excellent teacher. I have made substantial contributions to the development of curriculum in resource economics, have developed a highly-rated first year unit, and have published a widely-prescribed text in the discipline.

My research interests concern the economic analysis of the use of land and natural resources to increase the sustainable welfare of the community as a whole. I obtained external competitive research funds to build the team to estimate the benefits of soil conservation (1984–1994). As team leader, I directly fostered our substantial output of journal articles. I also obtained the external funds to build the weeds economics team (1997-continuing). While remaining the Project Leader, I now share this leadership and share the fund raising. But I raised all the external funds, and led the seven-person team, that produced the highly-acclaimed monograph on the economic impact of weeds in Australia, published by the CRC for Australian Weed Management.

For each year of the last decade, I have raised on average 33 per cent more funds from competitive external sources than the mean of the other grant-active staff of my discipline in my School. For each year during this period, I have raised 27 per cent more funds than the University target for my academic level, and 12 per cent more than the grant-active Professors in my School. Since 1982, I have individually raised more than \$1m in external grants (valued in 2006 dollars).

I have carried a full teaching load, with three units a year, for each year of the last decade. During this time, my weighted output of journal articles has been 135 per cent above all level D staff in my Faculty who publish, and 2 per cent above all level E who publish. My output of journal articles has been 33 per cent above the disciplinary norm each year since 1982. Between 1999 and 2004, my citation rate was four times the average for the

27 colleagues in my School who had been listed in the Social Science Citation Index. I contributed 16 per cent of the School's total citations.

My service to the University and the community continues to be substantial. Within the University, I am Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters) in the School of Business, Economics and Public Policy and am presently responsible for the academic management of the 55 Masters students. My service to the community includes (a) contributing to state-wide policy formation on protecting native vegetation on farms, and (b) chairing the national Industry Leadership Group for the Australia-wide Horticulture for Tomorrow project, and chairing the associated national workshops.

### **3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEACHING**

#### **3.1 Quantity of teaching**

Over the last decade, I have taught three units per year, which has been approximately the mean load for academics in the School of Economics. My current units (with 2007 student numbers) are:

- ECON 121 Environment and food production: economic perspectives (55)
- ECON 224/324 Welfare Economics for Policy (50)
- ECON 226/326 Benefit-Cost Analysis (75)

My EFTSL for teaching alone have been 21.875 in 2005, 18.250 in 2006 and 20.150 in 2007.

#### **3.2 Quality of teaching**

The University's Teaching and Learning Centre administers independent student evaluations of teaching. There are some 15 questions on the teaching performance survey form and some six that can be readily assessed on the unit results form. I have summarised my scores relative the School of Economics mean scores over all 15 evaluations where there were more than 10 responses.

The results show that I rate;

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • at least 20% better on | 14.4% of the questions ,    |
| • at least 15% better on | 28.0% of the questions,     |
| • at least 10% better on | 42.9% of the questions,     |
| • at least 5% better on  | 55.3% of the questions, and |
| • equal to or better on  | 86.4% of the questions.     |
| •                        |                             |

On this basis, I rate consistently above the School means on the questions used to judge teaching and unit performance, and substantially above the means on most of the questions. In more detail, I rate:

- consistently above the School of Economics and University averages on all the criteria used to judge teaching,
- substantially above the School of Economics and University averages on nearly all of the criteria,
- substantially better than these averages on the criteria that concern enthusing students about the discipline, and
- continuously, over three decades, as a very good teacher with touches of excellence.

While on study leave, I taught at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, in 1973, and was invited back to teach there again in 1977.

### **3.3 Leadership in curriculum development**

I have been responsible for developing our units in the area of resource and environmental economics, from first to fourth year. When I arrived at the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University in 1967, I initiated a one-semester unit in natural resource economics, namely Agricultural Economics IVA. Now we have five units in this area, and I have led the development of the content and flow of all of them.

They are:

- ECON 121 Environment and Food Production: Economic Perspectives,
- ECON 224/324 Welfare Economics for Policy,
- ECON 230/330 Environmental Economics,
- ECON 226/326 Benefit-Cost Analysis, and
- ECON 329/429 Natural Resource Economics.

Benefit-Cost Analysis developed from Agricultural Economics IVA in the 1970s to give us two units. Using today's labels, the two units were ECON 226/326 and ECON 329/429. The relevant theory unit in welfare economics (ECON 224/324) began in the mid-1980s to enhance student knowledge of microeconomic theory in this particular area. I developed the unit jointly with Dr R A Powell and team-taught it with him for several years. Then in the late 1990s I initiated the unit ECON 230/330 Environmental Economics, which I handed on to Dr Jeff Gow in 2004. We have taught the unit in natural resource economics each year since 1967, and in 1993 I passed this unit to Associate Professor Phil Simmons.

The first-year teaching of agricultural economics (as ARE 110 to agricultural economics students and ARE 160 to rural science students) had to be re-organised in the early 1990s. It had long been a unit in theoretical economic principles. At my suggestion, the unit was revised to teach the basic economic principles through applications to major issues such as global food security and land degradation. I became the lecturer and I continue to teach and develop this unit (now ECON 121).

### **3.4 A widely-prescribed text book**

I have co-authored the university textbook:

- Sinden, J A and D J Thampapillai, 1995, *Introduction to benefit-cost analysis*, Longman, Melbourne. Reprinted in 1999.

I planned the entire text, drafted eleven of the twelve chapters and edited all twelve. The book has been adopted as a prescribed text for units in seven universities in Australia, the International University of Japan, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in La Jolla, California. The text has been translated into Vietnamese and is a prescribed text at the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City, where the class size is 200 students each year. Peer reviews indicate that this is an outstanding introductory text, and the best in its field by far. For example;

"an excellent book...the outstanding introductory text for benefit-cost analysis ". "It is very clear and well written and the best I have seen at that level (by far)."

Full details of these and other reviews are documented in Appendix B.

## **4. RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS**

In the last two decades my research has focussed on:

- estimating the benefits of soil conservation,
- estimating the costs of protecting native vegetation on farms, and
- estimating the costs of weeds across Australia.
- 

These three areas depend on estimates of the values of environmental goods and services and I have a career-long research programme in this area.

The achievements, quality and scholarship of this research may be assessed on the following criteria (4.1 to 4.6).

### **4.1 Quantity of publications**

I rate substantially above the disciplinary norm for the rate and quantity of refereed publications. I have published:

- 3 widely-used text books, and
- 31 sole-author papers in refereed journals,
- 53 joint-author papers in refereed journals,
- 3 joint- author papers in refereed conference proceedings, and
- 7 monographs.

All these publications are listed in Appendix B. I have not listed the 85 papers that I have contributed to conferences. Six of the journal articles have been reprinted in professional journals or rewritten for the in-house bulletins of resource management agencies.

I have published at an average rate of 2.1 refereed papers per year (excluding the books and monographs) since joining the University, an average of 2.1 since 1982, and an average of 2.8 over the last decade.

The disciplinary norm for refereed papers is 1.5 papers a year, according to the late Professor John L Dillon, formerly Head of our Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. This rate applies to an academic agricultural and resource economist, with 25% time devoted to research.

One of the monographs:

- Sinden, Jack, Randall Jones, Susie Hester, Doreen Odom, Cheryl Kalisch, Rosemary James, and Oscar Cacho, 2004, *The economic impact of weeds in Australia*, CRC for Australian Weed Management Technical Series 8, 55 pp.

was made available on the website of the CRC. Between March 2004 and May 2007 it was downloaded 25,500 times. As such, it was the most popular and widely read of the CRC's publications. As a comparison, the most popular full-text document at the institutional repository at QUT was downloaded 34,500 times and that at UQ was downloaded 21,100 times over a similar period.

## 4.2 Quality of publications

The level of research scholarship is demonstrated by:

- the journals in which the papers are published,
- the reviews of the books, and
- the comments of the referees of the papers.

The papers have been published in the leading international journals of economics and agricultural economics such as *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2 papers), *Land Economics* (4), and *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2), and the leading international journals of environmental management such as *Journal of Environmental Management* (4), and *Agriculture Ecosystems and Environment* (1).

The reviews of the three books are contained in Appendix B, and the opinions of the referees, and the comments of readers of journal articles are summarised in Appendix C. For example, together with Professor A C Worrell of Yale University I published:

- Sinden, J A and A C Worrell, (1979), *Unpriced values: decisions without market prices*, Wiley, New York, pp 511.

There were 14 reviews of this text in the academic journals. Two were adverse, two were neutral, and the remaining 10 rated the book as "admirable" to "excellent".

### **4.3 Awards of research grants**

Since 1982, I have individually and jointly raised a total of \$1,251,100 in competitive external research grants. This is the sum of all the grants valued in dollars of the day. My individual claim calculated with my percentage contributions is a total of \$792,200, again in dollars of the day. My claim becomes \$1,109,200 when all grants are valued in the more comparable 2006 dollars, using the long-term rate of increase in the consumer price index of 3.4 per cent per year (Australian Bureau of Statistics data, 2005) to bring pre-2006 values to current values.

Since 1982, my claim in raising these funds is an annual average rate of:

- \$44,400 each year in the period 1982 to 2006 inclusive (\$31,700), and
- \$57,000 each year in the period 1997 to 2006 inclusive (\$50,700).

These amounts are valued in 2006 dollars, and the values in dollars of the day are in brackets.

My colleagues have raised the following per person, average annual, amounts in the period from 1996 to 2003, in 2006 dollars (with the amounts in dollars of the day in parentheses):

- \$42,900 by all grant-active staff in my discipline in my School (\$34,300), and
- \$51,100 by all grant-active Professors in my School (\$41,800).

The staff in my discipline include all agricultural economists, economists and econometricians in the School of Economics. The Professors include all Level E staff in the School who were grant-active. The data were obtained from the School's official research information on its website.

My annual rate of fund raising for the period 1997 to 2006 inclusive can now be compared to that of my peers for 1996 to 2003, using 2006 dollars for both. I have raised \$57,000 annually against \$42,900 for members of my discipline, so I have raised 32.9 per cent more each year than the grant-active staff in my discipline. Similarly I have raised 11.7 per cent more each year than grant-active Professors of my School. The percentages using dollars of the day are 47.7 per cent more than members of my discipline, and 21.4 per cent more than grant-active Professors.

The target for all Level D staff in the Faculty of Economics Business and Law is \$45,000 a year, and for Level E it is \$60,000, according to the University's *UNE Research Management Plan 2005-2006*, page 24. My average of \$57,000, in 2006 dollars, each year for the last ten years exceeds the Level D target by 26.7 per cent, and my annual average of \$50,700 in the dollars of the day exceeds the same target by 12.7 per cent.

In summary, I have raised each year over the last decade:

- 32.9 per cent more funds than the mean of the grant-active members of my discipline,
- 11.7 per cent more than the grant-active Professors in my school, and
- 26.7 per cent more than the UNE target for my current academic level.

Further, since 1982 I have individually raised more than \$1.1m dollars of competitive external research grants (valued in 2006 dollars).

#### **4.4 Collaboration with leading international forest and resource economists**

I have undertaken three substantial research projects with leading overseas academics.

- Professor A C Worrell of Yale University was one of the worlds leading forest economists. Collaboration from 1971 to 1979 led to the Wiley text, *Unpriced Values: Decisions without Market Prices*.
- Professor Jack Knetsch of Simon Fraser University is one of the world's foremost resource economists. Collaboration over some five years led to a series of papers on the valuation of environmental benefits and costs in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and other journals.
- Professor D A King of the University of Arizona is a leading forest economist. Collaboration on soil conservation project here in Armidale from 1981 to 1994 led to five journal articles on land degradation and the operation of the land market, including two papers in *Land Economics*.

#### **4.5 Member of editorial boards of journals and referee of journal papers**

I have recently served five-year periods on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Forest Economics* and the *Australian Journal of Environmental Management*. I regularly referee papers for *Land Economics*, *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Australian Forestry*, and *Journal of Environmental Management*.

#### **4.6 Research Supervision**

Since 1982 I have supervised the fourth year research theses of 52 students in the BAgEc and the research dissertations of 18 Masters students, all of whom successfully

completed. I have also supervised 11 PhD students 8 of whom successfully completed, 2 withdrew and one is submitting in 2008. Overall, I have supervised an annual average of 2.1 fourth-year theses, 0.8 Masters dissertations, and 1.7 PhD students between 1982 and 2005. Adjusted for joint supervision, using the percentages above, I have supervised 2.1 fourth-year theses, 0.7 Masters dissertations and 1.0 PhD students in each year.

I am also regularly called on to examine PhD and masters dissertations.

## **5. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

### **5.1 Participating in community affairs: costs of protecting native vegetation on farms (1997 – continuing)**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1998, the New South Wales government introduced the Native Conservation Vegetation Act to prevent landholders clearing native vegetation from their land. Economic theory suggests that there will be a reduction in farm income and land value when an Act constrains the farmer's choice of enterprises. So the community as a whole must address the following questions:

- how large is the reduction in income and land value, and
- how are these losses shared throughout the community?

These questions are fundamental to efficient allocation of resources and improving the distribution of income within the community.

Media discussions of these questions indicated that the community thought they were important issues, but large sections of the community thought the losses were low - - even though there was no information on the size of them. I therefore decided to establish a research programme in this area. This led to the following service to the community.

#### ***(a) Participating in community service***

- In May 1999, I presented the research proposal to Moree Regional Vegetation Committee in Moree and gained their support in kind.
- Between December 1999 to February 2000, I surveyed 46 farmers in Moree Plains Shire to collect data on the effect of the legislation (under my supervision, a student who lived in the area surveyed five more farmers). The surveys took some two hours each, were usually undertaken with the farmer and his wife, and usually involved a visit to parts of the farm.
- Between December 1999 and March 2002, I attended several more meetings of the Moree Regional Vegetation Committee.
- Between February 2002 and November 2005, I met a large number of demands for public addresses, television, radio and newspaper interviews, as documented below.

- Between October 2001 and December 2005, I wrote two conference papers and six journals articles for refereed journals. All these publications were also sent to those who inquired for information.

***(b) Commitment to community service***

The time devoted to the research, and interacting with the community, comprised:

- Office time in 1998 and 1999 for reviewing the literature, defining the problem, selecting the sample, and preparing the survey at a total of some 15 weeks (at say 1.5 days a week over a year).
- Between May 1999 and July 2003, I made 21 trips to Moree Plains Shire all of which involved two nights away from Armidale.
- Office time for data analysis was approximately one day per week, over the eight months between May and December 2001.

A further substantial amount of time was spent writing the conference papers and journal articles that flowed from this research. A further commitment, again, was involved because I decided to contribute directly to state and national policy on these issues.

***(c) Initiative in contributing to policy formation***

The data set that I had collected was substantial, and was the only one in the state to actually address the issues. I had personally interviewed 46 farmers so I had a good quantitative and qualitative knowledge of most aspects of the problem. So I decided to participate much further and provide leadership in making sure that the community and the government agencies knew the costs it was imposing on farmers.

This commitment involved firstly:

- a UNE Press release on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2002, entitled “Economist estimates cost of vegetation act to farmers”. The press release was placed on the UNE releases website.
- a contributed paper on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2002 to the Annual Conference of Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Canberra

Then followed:

- three television interviews (two on ABC “Landline” and SBS),
- three television voice overs,
- 11 radio interviews, and
- 12 telephone interviews for newspapers,
- 44 email requests for the original conference paper, and
- many telephone calls to home and office, to request information, thank me for doing the work, or to discuss the results.

The second ABC “Landline” presentation comprised an interview with the Minister (Mr Aquilina) who presented his perspective and with text quotes from myself explaining the real situation.

There were many newspaper reports of the work, including those in the “The Australian” (December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003) and the “Daily Telegraph” (February 13<sup>th</sup> 2002 and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003). There were of course, a very large number of reports in the local newspapers. There followed some “counter-reports” in the newspapers from environmental groups who presented their own viewpoints or discussed other aspects of the protection problem.

***(d) Leading the public debate***

As noted above, the UNE press release and conference paper, the early invited addresses and the television and radio work, led to numerous newspaper reports and considerable public discussion.

The work was the subject of a debate in the NSW legislature on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2002 in which George Souris, then leader of the National Party called for review of the Act on the basis of my research. He concluded “ ... I commend ... Jack Sinden for igniting this much needed debate ... (this) work has served the community greatly ...” (Hansard p508).

Richard Torbay, Independent Member for Northern Tablelands Electorate, also spoke in this debate in support of my work. He was “encouraged to hear that the Government will consider the recommendations of Dr Sinden ...” and argued that “The Government should undertake a review of the legislation and engage in constructive debate on the economic and social impacts. Such a process would be beneficial to the whole of New South Wales and to Australia.” This was the purpose of my research.

Professor R R Piggott congratulated me on getting this public debate going. In an email on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2002 to all members of the School of Economics, Professor Piggott then Head of School wrote “Jack Sinden has been attracting publicity for the School through his study of what the Native Vegetation Conservation Act is costing farmers in the Moree area (\$120m over six years). Jack’s report is going over well with the NSW Farmers Association, not so well with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW though. But getting such debate going is a big plus. Congratulations Jack.”

***(e) Peer review of the underlying research work***

The work led to two papers that I contributed to annual Conferences of Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, and which were distributed very widely. The work also led to the six articles in refereed journals (the first six, sole author, journal articles in Appendix B below).

Professor R R Piggott, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Business and Law, believes that the research to estimate the costs of protection was first class research work. He

wrote in “Campus View” 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005, “The training that it (the BAgEc degree at the University) provides is underpinned by first class research work on contemporary issues (e.g., Jack Sinden, one of our agricultural economists, estimates that weed incursions cost the Australian economy \$3.9 billion annually and that regulations protecting native vegetation lower land values in the Moree Plains Shire by 22%!).”

***(f) Contributions, achievements and invited presentatons***

The direct outcomes of this service to the community include:

- informing urban families, farm families, government departments and the New South Wales state government, are now much better informed about the costs of protection (as demonstrated through the media work, requests for help in submissions, and requests for copies of work), and
- initiating a much-more informed debate within the community, not least in state parliament, as demonstrated through the above quotes.
- 

The causes of actions and events can never be entirely proved. But in his announcement of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the impacts of regulations on farm incomes (mid 2002), John Anderson, Deputy Prime Minister justified the inquiry partly on my results. The revisions of the NSW Act began shortly after my results were reported. There was of course considerable lobbying at the same time by farmer groups and community groups, but all of these factors must have influenced the decision to revise the Act.

I was invited to make the following addresses to present my results:

- February 18<sup>th</sup> 2002 Address to Moree Regional Vegetation Committee to present results, “Who pays to protect native vegetation? Costs to farmers in Moree Plains Shire, New South Wales”.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2002 Address to a farmer’s rally in Narrabri, “Cost of native vegetation protection to landowners”.
- June 2004 Public Lecture in Newcastle Town Hall “Objective Analysis of Government Policy: a Native Vegetation Case Study in Northern New South Wales”, Hosted by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation.
- October 2005 Invited keynote address to a workshop on production/environment tradeoffs at Central Queensland University, “The environmental cost curve: an economic approach to the environment/production trade off”.

I also made:

- July 2003 Address to hearing of the Productivity Commission on the Impacts of Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Regulations, at Moree.

## **5.2 Participating in community affairs: environmental management systems for horticulture (2004 – continuing)**

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is the peak national research, development and marketing organization for the horticulture industry. In 2004, HAL obtained \$950,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust for the national project, *Horticulture for Tomorrow: Environmental Assurance* (H4T:EA). The aim of the project is to give horticultural growers the opportunity to adopt environmental management systems. The project is implemented by an Industry Leadership Group (ILG) and a Technical Steering Committee (TSC). The ILG is responsible for policy development, including defining strategies to attain project goals, managing current issues, and contacting external bodies. The TSC is responsible for preparing the set of management guidelines through a consultancy team.

In 2005, Horticulture Australia Limited obtained funding for the consequent project, *Horticulture for Tomorrow: Natural Resource Management Initiative* (H4T:NRM). This \$450,000 national project is supported by Australia's horticultural industries, funded through the National Landcare Program and managed by Horticulture Australia Limited. The aim of the project is to integrate management at the farm level and the catchment level. Then in 2007, HAL obtained funding of some \$250,000 for a further project, namely Horticulture Sustainable Industries Initiative: Phase 2 (HSII:P2).

### ***(a) Chair of the Industry Leadership Group***

In mid-2004, I was invited to Chair the Industry Leadership Group for H4T:EA, and I am still the Chair. In mid-2005, and as Chair of the ILG, I was invited to be involved in the decision making for H4T: NRM. Now in August 2007, I have been asked to chair the Industry Leadership Group for HSII: P2.

As Chair of the Industry Leadership Group for H4T:EA, I:

- chair regular meetings,
- liaise with Project Manager to take agreed actions, and to maintain progress and momentum between meetings,
- provide the source for many public statements on the progress on H4T:EA,
- write some of the public statements on progress of H4T:EA, and
- contribute directly to policy development of the NRM Initiative, as detailed under (d) below.

As chair I am a:

- member of the three-person Project Reference Group to which the H4T:EA consultancy team reports, and
- member of the three-person committee to review submissions, and choose between projects for NRM Initiative

Participation in both the H4T:EA and H4T:NRM projects requires the application of economic principles to resource and environmental management, and to the operation of environmental management systems. Participation therefore provides an opportunity to extend and apply the principles of my discipline.

***(b) Commitment to community service***

My participation in these activities has involved five meetings of the Industry Leadership Group of H4T:EA , five meetings of the H4T:NRM Initiative all in Sydney. The ILG meetings require prior discussion with the Project Manager at HAL on the day before to review what needs to be done. Further, in Armidale I have reviewed perhaps 15 media releases, two detailed environmental strategy documents, and three detailed NRM strategy drafts. Overall, I would estimate that I have spent half a day per week on this project since mid 2004.

***(c) Invitations to present closing summaries at conferences***

I have been invited to chair, open or close conferences and workshops for both of these projects. More specifically the invitations (so far) have been to:

- Provide closing summary for the Horticulture for Tomorrow Industry Summit Conference, and so synthesise and summarise proceedings, Sydney, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 (some 145 delegates)
- Chair, open and provide closing summary and synthesis for Natural Resource Management Initiation Workshop, Sydney, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 (some 25 delegates)
- Chair, open and provide closing summary and synthesis for Natural Resource Management Initiative Progress Workshop, Sydney, December 2005 (some 25 delegates)

***(d) Initiative in contributing to policy formation***

On these occasions, I have synthesised the range of ideas into common themes, and summarised diverse arguments and viewpoints into common programmes, to identify actions to achieve the goals. This facilitates policy formation in the preparation of the strategies and the outcomes for the two projects. As the above list shows, I have been repeatedly invited back to provide these contributions.

***(e) Enhancing public appreciation of the University***

The Chair of the Technical Steering Committee, writes in the acknowledgments section of the Guidelines (2005): “The following (two people) are particularly acknowledged for their valuable contribution:

- Jack Sinden, University of New England...”

Peter Day is the Co-ordinator of the Natural Resource Management Initiative. In an email of October 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 to me, referring to my review of the strategy document for the H4T:NRM project, he writes: “Thanks for this - excellent material for us to go over on the 24th.”

***(f) Contributions and achievements***

Because of my role, the environmental assurance project (H4T:EA) is now:

- introducing the principles of benefit-cost analysis into the preparation of the Guidelines ,
- demonstrating the business case for introduction of environmental management,
- and initiating contact with Environmental Groups to review guidelines.

The natural resource management initiative (H4T:MRM) is now

- more likely to more fully meet its objectives, and
- produce reports that meet a wider audience.

**6. SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

**6.1 The range of committees and positions**

In the last ten years, I have been:

- Elected School representative on the Deans Advisory Committee 2007,
- Deans nominee on the University Promotions Committee (Level C) 2006,
- Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters) in the School of Economics responsible for academic management of between 55 and 71 graduate students, 1998–continuing,
- Graduate Student Co-ordinator in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (1994–1998), responsible for the academic management of 30 graduate students,
- Departmental representative (elected) on the University Committee to appoint a new Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 1996-1998,
- Faculty representative on the UNE Scholarships Committee (for four years),
- Faculty Representative on the Promotions (Associate Professor) Committee for one year,
- Member of the Faculty Student Affairs Committee, 2003-continuing,
- Member Faculty Selection Committee for a senior administrative assistant, July 2003, and
- Fire Warden for my floor since 2003.

I now detail the service involved as Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters).

**6.2 Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters)**

When the School of Economics was formed in mid-1998, Professor Lloyd asked me to be Graduate Student Coordinator (Masters). In this role, I am responsible for the academic management of our 55 Masters students. The position requires an average of about half-a-day a week through the year, although it is more intensive from October to March. It entails:

- answering all enquiries about both our Masters degrees (MEc and MEcSt),
- advising potential students on options, entry requirements and units,
- advising continuing Masters students on the selection of units,
- helping students to enrol for a further degree,
- writing references for students,
- advising students on the University's administrative procedures,
- explaining, and occasionally justifying, University regulations to students, and
- finding supervisors and examiners for the research component of the MEc degree.

The last task is particularly difficult due to the limited availability of supervisors. In the last two years or so, the position has also involved:

- advising staff of the Student Centre, and Research Services, on Faculty procedures,
- liaising with staff of the Student Centre, and Research Services, at some length on particular student matters, and
- advising students on the new administrative arrangements.

There is a continual stream of these tasks to be undertaken. My approach is to provide prompt answers for students, and to maintain contact with them by telephone and email as they progress.

My role has also entailed development of Master's policy on:

- entry into minor or major dissertation, or thesis only, options of the MEc, and
- selection of unit combinations for majors in the MEcSt.

Together with Professor R R Piggott, then Head of School, I prepared a Master's handbook to help students "navigate" through the three research options.

Many of our graduate students are from non-English speaking backgrounds. They require much extra, patient, counselling to help them adjust to our institutions, our work ethics, and customs. I try first to understand their spoken English, their backgrounds and their expectations, and then help them understand our University practices. This role requires repeated meetings with each student.

The position of Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters) requires considerable care and sensitivity to the needs of the individual student, the standards of the University and the University's administrative processes. In this task, my goals are to promote student numbers and promote student satisfaction, while always meeting the constraints of the University's standards.

## **Appendix A Further evaluation of teaching quality**

### **Excellence in teaching quality**

For more than three decades, I have been rated as an excellent teacher. The ratings are derived from the following student surveys by independent University Teaching and Learning Centres (TLC). The student numbers in each survey are noted.

- 1968 In a University-wide survey of 38 lecturers, the Student Representative Council at UNE reported that my teaching had “ touches of excellence” (15 students).
- 1982 In the survey by the University of Arizona TLC of student opinion of my unit RNR 470, 4 of 5 students rated me as an excellent instructor and 1 as a good one.
- 1993 The eight students on the short course at Macquarie University, detailed above, were surveyed with the following question (amongst others). “All things considered, how would you rate the teaching of this lecturer in this subject?” Six of the 8 rated me as excellent, one rated me as very good, and one as good.
- 2004 There were eight internal students in ECON 224/324 surveyed by the UNE Teaching and Learning Centre in 2004. In this survey, 88 per cent of these students agreed with the statement “all things considered my rating of the unit is excellent”. The mean for the School of Economics was 47 per cent.

### **Ratings on key teaching criteria**

I rate substantially better than the School and University mean on the following key criteria all of which concern enthusing the students about the subject. For example:

- “This unit stimulated my interest in the subject area.” I am rated 26.2 per cent above the School mean by internal students in ECON 121.
- “Overall the lecturer was highly effective in facilitating my learning.” I am rated 16.7 per cent above the School mean by students in ECON 121.
- “ I would recommend that other students take a unit taught by this lecturer” I am rated 16.4 per cent above the School mean by students in ECON 121 .
- “All things considered my overall rating of this unit is excellent.” I am rated 77.3 per cent better than the School mean by students in ECON 224/324 .

## Appendix B List of Publications

### Books (3)

**Sinden, J A and D J Thampapillai, (1995), *Introduction to benefit-cost analysis*, Longman, Melbourne, pp 262.**

This book has been adopted as a prescribed text for units in seven universities in Australia, one University in Japan, and one course at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, La Jolla, California.

The past Editor of the Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Associate Professor Bill Malcolm, described it as "fantastic, -- a top book". Dr Peter Phibbs, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Sydney, considers it " to be an excellent book....the outstanding introductory text for benefit-cost analysis ". Professor Dale Squires, of La Jolla, writes as follows. "It is very clear and well written and the best I have seen at that level (by far)."

Dr Brian Davidson, Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, at the Department of Food Science and Agribusiness, University of Melbourne, writes, "this book is an extremely valuable reference that we use in our resource economics subject taught to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students in the Institute of Land and Food Resources. So much so that we would like to prescribe it as a text in coming years - - it's a blinder"

Tran Vo Hung Son, Dean of the Faculty of Development Economics, Ho Chi Minh City University, has translated the text into Vietnamese. He has 200 students in his class each year, and also uses the book for international training courses for University Teachers. He writes, in an email of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005, " I ... was indebted to you about using your book ... is very good ... you have helped us enormously".

**Sinden, J A and A C Worrell, (1979), *Unpriced values: decisions without market prices*, Wiley, New York, pp 511.**

There were 14 reviews of this text in the academic journals. Two were adverse, two were neutral, and the remaining 10 rated the book as "admirable" to "excellent". For example:

"a meticulously crafted effort" Professor W E Martin, reviewer in *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

"congratulations on a first-class job", Professor James R Gray, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, New Mexico State University.

"strongly recommended as a first-rate treatment of a difficult topic" Norman Myers, reviewer in *Environmental Conservation*

**Sinden, J A, Editor (1972), *The natural resources of Australia ; problems and prospects for development*, McGraw-Hill, Sydney, pp 334**

This book was adopted as a prescribed text in at least three university courses in natural resource management in Australia.

The reviewer for the Bulletin of the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (December 1975) summarises the objectives of the book in his comments. "... (the) objectives (were) to examine and discuss in some detail, past present and possible problems in the most effective and acceptable utilisation of our resources... in achieving these objectives in such large measure .. the volume is strongly recommended to all who may be in any way responsible for, involved in, or concerned about effective management of Australia's natural resources. At the asking price it is a bargain and a sound investment."

**Journal Articles: Sole Author (31)**

Sinden, J A 2005, "Ten Facts and a Question: impacts of regulations to protect native vegetation on farm incomes and land values", *Farm Policy Journal*, 2, November quarter, 29 – 37. The Editor invited me to contribute this paper.

Sinden, J A 2005, "Conservation of Native woodland by farmers in Moree Plains Shire, New South Wales", *Australian Forestry*, 68 (1), 65-72

Sinden, J A 2004, 'Do the public gains from vegetation protection in north-western New South Wales exceed the landholders loss of land value?', *The Rangeland Journal*, 26 (2), 204-224. The Editor invited me to contribute this paper.

Sinden, J A 2004, "Estimating the costs of biodiversity protection in the Brigalow belt, New South Wales", *Journal of Environmental Management*, 70, 351-362.

Sinden, J A 2004, "Influence of conservation of native vegetation on land values in Moree Plains Shire, NSW", *The ICFAI Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1(2) 48 –70. The editors invited me to submit this paper directly from its web publication as Working Paper 2003-9, Graduate School of Agricultural and Resource Economics/School of Economics, UNE.

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### **Joint author papers in refereed conference proceedings (3)**

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Odom, D I S and J A Sinden 2004, "Benefit cost analysis for weed risk assessment in natural environments: full analysis, partial analysis or rules of thumb?", pp 584 –587 in Editors B M Sindel and S B Johnson *Weed Management : Balancing People, Planet, Profit*, Proceedings of 14<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference.

Sinden, J A, Jones R, Hester, S, Odom, D, Kalisch, C, James, R and O Cacho, 2004, "The economic impact of weeds in Australian agriculture", pp 588 to 591 in Editors B M Sindel and S B Johnson *Weed Management: Balancing People, Planet, Profit*, Proceedings of 14<sup>th</sup> Australian Weeds Conference.

### **Monographs (7)**

Sinden, Jack, Randall Jones, Susie Hester, Doreen Odom, Cheryl Kalisch, Rosemary James, and Oscar Cacho, 2004, *The economic impact of weeds in Australia*, CRC for Australian Weed Management Technical Series 8, 55 pp.

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