



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



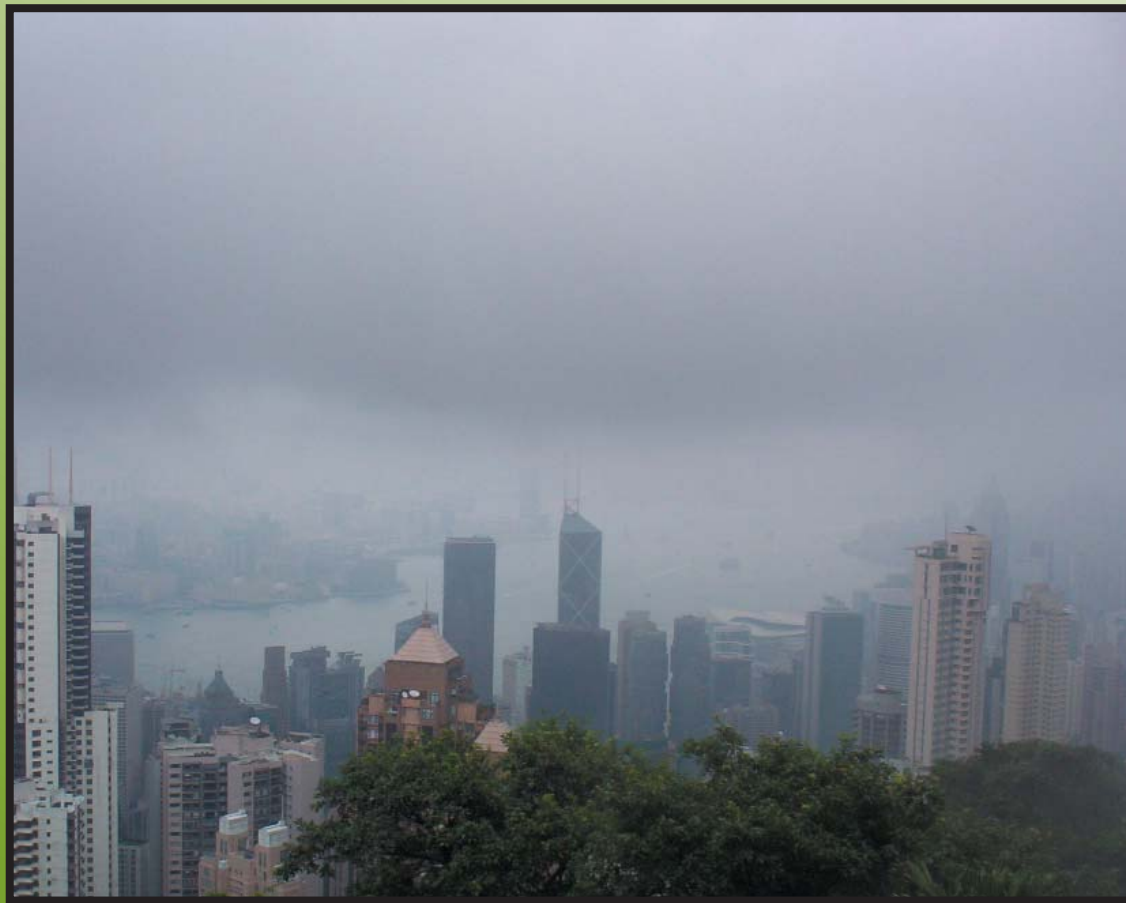
Influences on voluntarily reporting environmental information

Trevor Wilmshurst

School of Accounting & Corporate Governance

Craig Deegan

RMIT University



The decision to report environmental information within the annual reports of companies is largely voluntary as is the decision to produce environmental and/or sustainability reports. This information embraces activities that companies undertake affecting the environment. For example, pollution resulting from production, energy usage and waste management.

Despite the voluntary nature of these disclosures increasing amounts of such voluntary disclosures are taking place. This leads to an important question – Why? The cost to collect, collate and report is not an insignificant cost to the company. This research, continuing previous work undertaken, seeks to identify the motivations that underlie the decision to disclose environmental information to stakeholders by conducting interviews with companies that undertake this form of voluntary reporting.

Underlying this analysis will be stakeholder theory. The various stakeholder theories offer insights into the reasons for voluntary disclosure by management.

Interviews will examine the motivations that are identified by managers as reasons for reporting voluntary environmental information to stakeholders. These motivations will then be considered in the light of the expectations derived from the various stakeholder theories. In decision making, it is argued that managers are influenced by both managerial and ethical considerations.

