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Thursday 4 July 2019

News editors note: The Economics Challenge is being held from 10 am-3 pm today, Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay.

Students gain insight into economics and its diverse career pathways

Teams of secondary college students from Hobart will gain insight into the field of economics and how it informs government decision-making at the annual Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) Economics Challenge.

University of Tasmania Lecturer in Resource Economics Dr Dugald Tinch said the event was designed to complement the Year 11 and 12 economics curriculum and teach students about the different career pathways that can come from an economics degree.

About 80 students from four Hobart secondary colleges will attend the event, which features a one-hour lecture followed by a series of interactive challenges that they must complete in teams.

"Economics is the study on how we allocate resources to meet societal needs and wants. It touches on all aspects of modern life and helps give students a skillset or way of thinking that is highly valued in the community," Dr Tinch said.

"Students will hear from renowned economist and guest speaker Dr Deborah Peterson on how economics helps inform and shape climate change and energy policy. They will also have the chance to test their global trading and portfolio building skills using the University of Tasmania's new Bloomberg Finance Lab, which provides real-time access to the world's financial market data."

Guest speaker Dr Deborah Peterson is Director of Sapere Research Group, advising government agencies and the private sector in Australia and New Zealand. She has 25 years' experience leading economic research, regulatory reviews and national inquiries, policy and strategy development and implementation across a wide range of sectors.

As former Deputy Secretary with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Dr Sapere will share her knowledge of how economics help shape

climate change and energy policy. She has just taken a role as a member of the independent expert panel investigating social and economic conditions affecting communities across the Murray–Darling Basin.

The TSBE Economics Challenge is sponsored by Federal Group. A second event will be held in Launceston with participating Northern Tasmanian secondary colleges on 27 September, 2019.

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