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Editorial

This issue of the Journal marks the first to be managed by the new Editorial team, which will be responsible for volumes 55–57. The members of this team are Allan Rae (Professor Emeritus, School of Economics and Finance, Massey University, New Zealand), Professor Ross Cullen (Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance, Lincoln University, New Zealand) and Dr Geoffrey Kerr (Department of Environmental Management, Lincoln University). We have been editing papers since March 2010 and we sincerely thank the Associate Editors for their work so far on managing the review process for these papers. We appreciate the major input of time and thought that this often requires, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and with contributing authors.

We are very much aware of the proud history of the Journal and its core mission to pursue publication of high-quality papers in applied and policy economics. The principal focus will remain to be agricultural, resource and environmental economics, in many cases with an emphasis on Australasia. However, we also propose to encourage papers that will appeal to a wider Asia-Pacific audience.

We recently offered a number of strategic issues for the Journal and will be meeting with AARES Council in February 2012 to progress these and to seek agreement on the way forward. These cover issues such as how to maintain and raise the Journal's impact factors, what is the target audience for AJARE, and should it primarily publish papers of regional interest or become more truly international in scope? We intend to develop more efficient approaches to seeking submissions from AARES conference and symposia participants and to address the question of how many special issues per volume should be published. While special issues can involve high-profile authors and have the potential to increase the Journal's impact factor, too many special issues may have the effect of crowding out submissions from other authors.

We are currently working on a January 2012 Special Issue, tentatively titled '*New approaches to mineral and energy resource policies in Australasia*'. Mineral and energy resources are important in many countries in Australasia because of their economic development, macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts. Deborah Peterson of the Department of Primary Industry, Victoria and Ross Cullen will edit this Special Issue. It is our intention that it will be launched at the 2012 Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society conference in Perth, Australia.