

From: [Grattan Institute](#)
To: [Schreier, Paul](#)
Subject: What we're doing - October 2012
Date: Monday, 8 October 2012 11:34:00 AM

grattan



Dear Paul

WHAT WE'RE DOING – OCTOBER 2012

WELCOME

Grattan Institute is delighted to welcome GE Global Operations as our latest senior affiliate and Ernst & Young as our latest affiliate. We are immensely grateful to all our affiliates. Your support enables us to continue to improve Australian public policy.

AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES

At a lunchtime seminar in Sydney on Wednesday, October 31, I will present the findings from Grattan's much discussed report, [Game-changers: economic reform priorities for Australia](#). The event, hosted by Ernst & Young, is a roundtable that will enable participants to discuss and explore the proposed policy reforms in detail. If you would like to join us, let us know.

7.30 Report presenter Leigh Sales will join myself and Cities Program Director Jane-Frances Kelly on a panel discussing Grattan's annual *Prime Minister's Summer Reading List* at BMW Edge, Melbourne, on Tuesday evening, 11 December. The event is also Grattan's Christmas drinks and our affiliates will receive priority tickets. Please note the date in your diary ahead of receiving your formal invitation. The *PM's Summer Reading List* contains books and articles that we believe the Prime Minister – or indeed any Australian – will find stimulating over the summer break. They're all good reads that we think say something interesting about Australia and its future. And they make terrific Christmas gifts.

Work is underway on innovation policy, seeking to identify those policy interventions that have been effective in Australia and internationally, and assessing Australia's current raft of policies accordingly.

We are also starting work on the next Grattan Gathering, to be held 31 January – 1 February 2013. This will be a workshop of about 30 participants from across government, private sector and not-for-profits. It will consider the budget challenges of Australian governments and prioritise the options for ensuring budgetary sustainability. A similar workshop was influential in shaping the [Game-changers](#) research earlier this year. Please contact us if you have suggestions about suitable attendees.

PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH

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1. that people in non-mining industries will be worse off;
2. that we are losing capabilities that will be difficult to rebuild when the boom ends; and
3. that governments are inadequately prepared for lower growth after the boom.

We are looking at historical and international evidence as to which of these concerns are justified.

We are also contextualising these shifts relative to other structural changes in Australian society: consumers are spending more of their

income on services, value chains are globalising, people with high skills may capture an increasing share of income in the future and populations are aging.

All these trends have implications for policy as well as for corporate strategy. Productivity Growth Program Director, Jim Minifie, would be pleased to discuss them with interested affiliates.

CITIES

Cities Program Director Jane-Frances Kelly will host a public seminar on Grattan's recent report, [Tomorrow's suburbs: Building flexible neighbourhoods](#), in Melbourne on Tuesday October 9. Andrew Whitson of Stockland will provide an industry perspective on the report's findings and recommendations. Affiliates are welcome to attend. You'll find further details [here](#).

Following the publication of [Tomorrow's suburbs](#), the Cities team is planning an investigation into the geography of urban inequality. People with higher levels of income and education are increasingly clustering in and near city centres, while the high cost of housing forces those on lower incomes towards the periphery. How significant is this form of social segregation and what, if anything, can be done about it? The team welcomes affiliates' thoughts on the subject, as well as other suggestions for Cities research.

Cities Fellow Peter Mares is organising an invitation-only workshop, to be held in early November, on the wider economic benefits of transport investments. A number of our affiliates have staff attending this workshop, which will examine a key issue in prioritising public infrastructure investment.

ENERGY

The Energy Program is exploring how the costs of electricity distribution might be reduced. Barriers to cost reduction include the industry's risk of over-capitalisation (particularly as a result of government ownership and higher reliability standards), whether the regulated rates of return on capital are appropriate, and the regulatory determination process. We expect to publish this work by the end of 2012.

The Federal Government is establishing the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. The Climate Change Authority is reviewing the Renewable Energy Target (RET). Grattan's Energy report, [Building the bridge: a practical plan for a low-cost, low emission energy future](#), shows how targeted policies are needed to support the carbon price in order to create a low-emissions future for Australia and a predictable environment for investors in low-emission energy technologies. The report goes to the heart of the role of the new Commonwealth bodies and the RET review. The latter has generated much public debate and a split in the energy sector, exacerbated by forecasts of falling demand in the National Electricity Market.

The report's unique, robust proposal of a mechanism to generate low-price, low-emissions electricity is built on a detailed assessment of low-emission technologies and a critical review of alternative policies applied around the world to support these technologies. Grattan Energy Director Tony Wood would be pleased to discuss these perspectives with any affiliates involved or interested in energy policy.

Tony Wood, along with Matt Bell, Partner, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, Ernst & Young, are hosting a lunch tomorrow with the CEO of the Climate Change Authority, Anthea Harris. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss the RET Review in an informal setting and for those attending to share their perspectives with the head of the Climate Change Authority.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The big higher education story of 2012 has been the rise of the MOOCs – massive open online courses, offered for free by some of the world's most famous universities. To be serious competitors, MOOCs will need to offer full qualifications. Even then, most undergraduates may still want the social experience of on-campus education. Grattan Institute's work is looking at how this is likely to play out in Australia by analysing what different groups of students are looking to get out of higher education,

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Grattan Institute has work well underway on two major projects. The first examines the role of government in a system characterised by high and growing levels of school autonomy, choice and competition. The second examines turnaround schools. Drawing on national and international case studies, it will identify patterns in how low-performing schools successfully and sometimes inspirationally turn themselves around. It will analyse Shanghai's school empowered management program in order to outline a model of how high-performing schools can help low-performing schools.

We are building further on our report [Catching up: learning from the best school systems in East Asia](#) and presenting this work to stakeholders. The report continues to have an impact not only with policy makers but at the school and classroom level. We are also examining how schools can implement the programs discussed in our report, including mentoring, professional learning and teacher appraisal. Our research focuses on how schools and school systems can find the resources and make the trade-offs necessary to ensure that all educators focus relentlessly on classroom learning and teaching, which our report shows is the only way to lift student performance.

HEALTH

Grattan Institute [recently announced](#) the establishment of a program in health policy, to be run by one of Australia's leading thinkers in the field, Stephen Duckett. Stephen, a former Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health (now Health and Ageing), has a reputation for creativity, innovation and excellence both in the theory and the delivery of health policy.

Stephen, who took up his appointment this week, is certain to make a further outstanding contribution to improving health policy, and Grattan is delighted to establish a presence in this vital policy area.

HELPING YOU

If you are interested in a briefing, staff or client function covering any of these issues, please contact our Relationships Manager, [Angela Henderson](#). Do let us know if others in your organisation would like to receive this regular communication. Grattan always welcomes your views on our work, and what you think we should do next.

We thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

John Daley
Chief Executive Officer

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From: [Grattan Institute](#)
To: [Schreier, Paul](#)
Subject: What we're doing - August 2012
Date: Wednesday, 22 August 2012 5:12:15 PM

grattan



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WHAT WE'RE DOING – AUGUST 2012

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Grattan Institute is delighted to host Donald Low, Vice-President of the Economics Society of Singapore and a world-leading thinker in behavioural economics, on a visit to Australia from the 21st to the 24th of August. Donald, who will present at several events in Melbourne and Canberra, worked for the Singapore Government for 15 years, where he was Director of the Strategic Policy Office in the Prime Minister's Office. He also founded the Centre for Public Economics, a think-tank at the Civil Service College of Singapore. Recently he co-wrote and edited *Behavioural Economics and Policy Design: Examples from Singapore (2011)*. This pioneering book details how the Singapore government has applied insights from behavioural economics in the design and formulation of public policy.

At the various events, Donald will examine the key findings of behavioural economics and their applications to the design of public policy. Using examples from Singapore and elsewhere, he will suggest ways in which policy makers can intelligently incorporate the ideas of behavioural economics into public policy and "nudge" people into making better decisions.

We are very pleased that some of you can join us on Friday 24 August, when Donald will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon in Melbourne for our Board members, senior staff and affiliates.

Meanwhile, Grattan Institute has work underway on innovation, and on the role of independent think tanks in Australian policy.

We continue to present our work on economic policy priorities, published as [Game-changers](#), to a variety of audiences. Besides highlighting the importance of tax reform, female workforce participation and older age workforce participation, the work includes some interesting perspectives on infrastructure and industrial relations.

CITIES

Australia's cities are creating new suburbs on their fringes at a rapid rate. But over time, these suburbs will change, acquiring different populations and roles, becoming part of the established city fabric. Grattan's Cities Program is preparing a report on how policy makers and residents of these suburbs can make decisions now that will prepare them for future change. Already there are worrying signs that new greenfield suburbs, with relatively homogenous housing, small lots and segregated land uses will adapt less well to change than older areas of the city. Early planning decisions are decisive for future adaptability, and are hard to reverse. With so many new areas slated for development in the next few decades it is vital to think about their future now. We expect to publish this work in September.

The Cities Program is also looking at what we might learn from the history of rail in urban transport. Australia's cities rely heavily on rail networks built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but it's hard to imagine those same investments getting approval today. Although our society is more affluent, our economy much larger and our construction techniques far more sophisticated, we struggle to get major rail projects off the ground. If rail is to be part of our urban future, can lessons from

the past tell us how it is to be done?

ENERGY

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In developing this original approach to supporting the development of low-emission electricity generation, the Energy Program developed a detailed understanding of the current development of a number of the leading technologies. It also produced critical histories of various programs that Australian governments have used in the past to support low-emission electricity generation. Many of these perspectives may be valuable to affiliates, and Tony Wood would be happy to discuss these with you.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Work continues on the relationship between teaching and research in universities, and whether studying with teachers in a department that does little research makes a difference to student outcomes or satisfaction. We have also begun a project on online higher education, looking at the potential impact of online courses on many aspects of Australian higher education.

Grattan's Higher Education report, [*Graduate Winners: Assessing the public and private benefits of higher education*](#), contains new empirical work on the public and private benefits of higher education, and argues that students should pay more for their degrees, given the high private benefits they receive. The substantial savings to the taxpayer could be spent better elsewhere.

PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH

The Australian economy is challenged by unusually rapid structural change driven by the resources boom, consumer caution, the shift towards consumption of services, and relentless technological change. The mining boom keeps prices rising across the economy, putting traded non-resource sectors (both goods and services) under intense pressure. While mining investment is likely to slow in the boom's next phase, and while output rises and prices drop back, significant uncertainty remains, leaving policy makers with a difficult landscape to navigate.

Governments face choices over how to manage revenues through the investment and 'earn' phases of the commodity cycle. If they run an operating surplus, for example, they can pay down debt, increase government savings, or make domestic investments in physical or human capital. Governments can also influence how flexibly workers, firms and industries respond to price changes. There are implications for policies on immigration, tax, foreign investment, industry, labour mobility, labour retraining, and federal fiscal rules.

Work underway at Grattan Institute will outline how policy makers need to ensure that the economy is resilient and able to adapt to changing tradable goods prices. It will review the case for stronger budget surpluses during the period of high resource revenues. It will also examine our ad-hoc industry policy settings, and how government can reduce the costs of transition for people and firms under pressure.

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Grattan Institute has work well underway on turnaround schools. Drawing on national and international case studies, it will identify patterns in how low-performing schools successfully and sometimes inspirationally turn themselves around. It will analyse Shanghai's school empowered management program in order to outline a model of how high-performing schools can help low-performing schools.

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From: [Schreier, Paul](#)
To: [Grattan Institute](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Game-changers: Economic reform priorities for Australia - Canberra Seminar
Date: Monday, 2 July 2012 9:56:31 PM

I am currently on leave returning to the office on Wednesday 4 July 2012. For any urgent matters please contact my office on 6271 5920 for assistance.

From: [Grattan Institute](#)
To: [Watt, Ian](#)
Subject: What we're doing - August 2012
Date: Wednesday, 22 August 2012 5:12:17 PM

grattan



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From: [Grattan Institute](#)
To: [Watt, Ian](#)
Subject: Dinner invitation, Melbourne, Tuesday 11 December
Date: Friday, 30 November 2012 8:24:29 AM

grattan



Invitation

Dear Ian

Every December Grattan Institute releases a recommended summer reading list for the Prime Minister. ABC presenter Leigh Sales will join Grattan's CEO John Daley and Cities Program Director Jane-Frances Kelly to discuss this year's reading list at BMW Edge in Melbourne on December 11.

We would be delighted if you are able to join Leigh, John and Jane-Frances for dinner following the launch.

Venue: The Italian - 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 - Entry via 100 Flinders Lane.

Time: Dinner will start at 8.00pm following the launch.

RSVP: Please [advise me](#) by noon Tuesday 4 December if you are able to join us.

[This year's list](#) covers many important issues, ranging from climate change and bushfires, to how the global economy is changing jobs and cities, to what Australians expect from their government. Focusing on works published in 2012, we selected six good reads that say something interesting about Australia, the world and the future.

We hope that as a valued friend and supporter of Grattan Institute you will be able to attend the launch and dinner.

Best wishes

Angela

Angela Henderson
Relationships Manager
+61 3 8344 9041 | +61 466 206 442
angela.henderson@grattan.edu.au | www.grattan.edu.au

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Subject: Game-changers: Economic reform priorities for Australia - Canberra Seminar
Date: Monday, 2 July 2012 9:56:31 PM

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Canberra - Game-changers: reform priorities for economic growth in Australia

If Australian governments are serious about raising rates of economic growth, they must reform the tax mix and increase the workforce participation rates of women and older people. There's nothing else big enough to change the game over the next decade. Each of these reforms can increase economic growth substantially, and these should be the core economic reform priorities for Australian governments. Grattan Institute's report Game-changers: reform priorities for economic growth in Australia was released 7 June. The report's author, Grattan's CEO, John Daley, will discuss the report and the importance of prioritising reform.

About the speaker

John Daley, Grattan's CEO, is one of Australia's leading public policy thinkers with 20 years experience in the public, private and university sectors. His current research and publishing interests include government prioritisation, the objectives of government, the situations in which government intervention is justified, and the limits to government. John has worked for ANZ and McKinsey in a career that also includes expertise in law, finance, education, and workers compensation.

Hosted by: Grattan Institute & The Australian National University

[Click here for further details and registration](#)

Wednesday 4 July 2012

Registration at 5:15 pm
Seminar 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

The Australian National University
Molonglo lecture theatre
Level 2 JG Crawford Building
Lennox Crossing, ANU Canberra ACT

For further information please telephone 03 8344 3637 or visit our website at www.grattan.edu.au

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