Resource Taxation and Remote Aboriginal Royalties

Presenter: Dr Boyd Blackwell  
Research Fellow, University of New England

Resource taxation is a key concern for resource-rich nations. An especially thorny public policy question revolves around how resource taxation translates into benefits for affected communities in which resource extraction occurs. This presentation considers the international and Australian experience with mineral resource taxes, the types of taxes employed, how they are collected and disbursed, and the extent to which they benefit regional and remote communities. It is argued that direct payments from mining companies to affected communities represent the most efficient form of transfer. However, payments alone will not improve the wellbeing of remote communities, which also require good governance and abundant transparency.

Boyd Blackwell is a postdoctoral research fellow with the CRC for Remote Economic Participation, the University of New England Business School. His 5 year project will track and map the expenditure from mines to remote economies and guide policy around the relationship between mining and these communities. He has previously worked with the KPMG Melbourne, Australian Maritime College, Queensland Government, ABARE, Coastal and Sustainable Tourism CRCs, and Queensland, Griffith and Bond Universities on a range of teaching, research and policy projects. He has published in a number of international journals and a book.