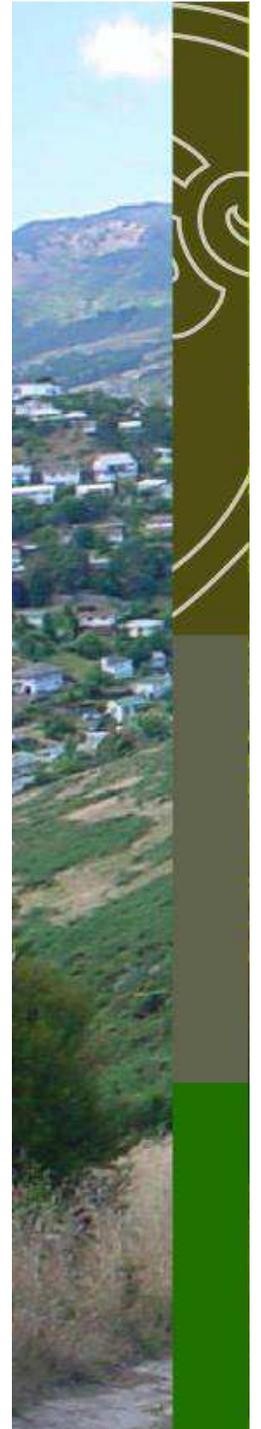




Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Identifying Socio-economic Attributes

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Ruamāhanga Economic Use, Resilience and Prosperity

He taonga te wai, water is life

Water sustains our livelihood, water
grows our people and communities

Reliability of water supply supports our;
incomes, employment and innovation, our
farming, industry and commercial fishing

Sustainable economic use of water brings
resilience and prosperity



What is Economics?

- Definition: *The study of how individuals and societies make decisions about ways to use scarce resources to meet wants and needs*
 - **Macroeconomics**: Big picture stuff
 - GDP, employment, trade, etc.
 - **Microeconomics**: Individual/firm decision-making
 - Consumption, production, personal well-being, etc.
- It's all about assessing trade-offs, including opportunity costs (foregone alternatives)

Efficiency & Equity

- A big issue in economics is the trade off between **efficiency** and **equity**:
 - Efficiency is concerned with the optimal production and allocation of resources given existing factors of production.
 - E.g., irrigation consents goes to most productive or profitable use
 - Equity is concerned with how resources are distributed throughout society
 - E.g., everybody entitled to access irrigation



Socio-economic Indicators

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Production and trade
- Employment
- Income/Wages
- Housing prices
- Population, including diversity
- Community services (hospitals, schools, etc.)
- Policy costs (implementation, capital, opportunity, etc.)
- Policy benefits (improved health, recreation, etc.)



Examples of socio-economic attributes for the primary sector

- Land and water use
- Farm profit
- On-farm production and value added goods
- Flow on effects to wider community (e.g., jobs, services, etc.)
- Policy implementation costs to gov't and landowners
- Environmental and cultural benefits of intervention
- Distribution of impacts across community

