

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Boosting risk analysis across the Tasman

A three day scientific conference to be held in Melbourne next week will discuss ways to bolster our biosecurity risk analysis methods and will encourage scientific collaboration across the Tasman.

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Conference will look at ways to reinvigorate the Australian and New Zealand chapters of the SRA, as both countries look to the development of state-of-the-art risk analysis methods and risk interpretation tools.

Hosted by the newly launched Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA), the SRA Conference will bring together a range of speakers from Australia and New Zealand covering topics such as quarantine, new approaches to surveillance for biosecurity and homeland security, post-border weed risk management risk, and trade and invasive species risk.

ACERA Director Professor Mark Burgman said that the conference predominantly aims to boost the SRA's presence in Australia, with biosecurity and associated risk analysis a major focus of the program.

"By the looking at ways to reinvigorate the SRA involving our two countries, we can benefit from shared experiences in biosecurity and offer the most collaborative approach possible to associated risk analysis," Professor Burgman said.

ACERA was launched in May and is funded by the Australian Government, Melbourne University and a range of other funding partners. Its purpose is to develop analytical tools, and communicate findings in a way that improves the understanding of how risk analysis is undertaken.

"By sharing ideas and information through the SRA, Australia and New Zealand will be in the best position to contribute positively to areas of human health, business, ecology and social science across the world."

*The SRA was founded in the United States and is a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, international society that provides an open forum for all those who are interested in risk analysis. Next weeks conference seeks to reinvigorate the Australian and New Zealand Chapter.*

*Risk analysis is broadly defined to include risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication, risk management, and policy relating to risk, in the context of risks of concern to individuals, to public and private sector organisations, and to society at a local, regional, national, or global level.*

**For more information:**

ACERA: [www.acera.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au)

SRA: [www.sra.org/about.php](http://www.sra.org/about.php)

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