

About the author



After gaining his BA (Hons) and MA in Economics at the University of Melbourne, Leo Dobes completed a DPhil in East European Economics at the University of Oxford in 1980. His public service career of almost 30 years, much of it at the senior executive level, included the Australian diplomatic service, intelligence analysis in the Office of National Assessments, and provision of policy advice in the Commonwealth departments of Defence, The Treasury, Communications (where he played a key role in developing and implementing the reform of the telecommunications sector in 1990–91) and Transport, including the Bureau of Transport Economics. Dr Dobes also spent a year on secondment at Ernst & Young, prior to market testing and outsourcing various aspects of corporate services in the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Following his retirement from the Australian Public Service in 2006, Dr Dobes has been at the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University in Canberra, where he is an honorary Associate Professor. He teaches a regular Masters-level course on Cost–Benefit Analysis, and his research interests currently include the treatment of uncertainty in Cost–Benefit Analysis, adaptation to climate change and the non-unification of the railway gauges following Federation in the early twentieth century.

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