

Raising the quality of debate

ISCR's new chairman Rob Cameron gives his views on ISCR and what it does.

I was flattered to be offered the role of Chairman of ISCR's Board of Trustees. ISCR's track record and reputation in producing quality research is now well established: the importance of its work is not in doubt.

The primary objectives of ISCR's research are directed at developing knowledge of:

- how markets and organisations operate
- how markets provide appropriate incentives and disciplines for organisations
- the limitations of markets, and the role of regulation in addressing these limitations
- the importance of property rights and institutional structures in facilitating the effectiveness of markets, organisations, competition, and regulation in New Zealand.

A better shared understanding of these matters is crucial to the quality of the regulations and laws governing our markets, and the behaviours and outcomes they produce.

In undertaking my 'due diligence' for the Chairman's role I was surprised and pleased at the alignment between ISCR's approach to its objectives and the Cameron Partners 'brand



values' of analytical rigour, insight and independence.

Let me explain what these 'values' mean for ISCR.

First, ISCR believes in the importance of applying analytical rigour to addressing complex issues and problems. As my predecessor noted in issue 21 of *Competition and Regulation Times*, ISCR aims to meet the highest standards of academic rigour and scholarship. It does this by making extensive use of academics who are experts in their respective fields and by publishing its research.

Second, ISCR research is directed at searching for insights that have the potential to

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inform companies' decisions, government policy, and the implementation of regulations. Moreover it strives to communicate the insights from its research in a way that is clear and accessible to a non-academic audience.

Third, ISCR's research is independent of the interests of its paying members or political influence. The research is owned by ISCR and publication in refereed academic journals is actively encouraged.

In the end my decision to accept the role was an easy one to make.

I look forward to making a contribution to an organisation that plays a key role in raising the quality of public debate on competition and regulation in our markets.

Rob Cameron is the founding partner of Cameron Partners Ltd. He has 23 years of experience as an investment banker and is a Harkness Fellow, a Hunter Fellow of Victoria University, and a member of the Supporters Council of Enterprise NZ Trust. Rob became Chairman of ISCR in December 2007.