

## **Roundtable on Sustainable Supply Chains**

The presentation by Tava Olsen, Chair in Supply Chain Management provided the starting point for discussion. Tava joined the roundtable along with 12 other attendees from business and academia. The roundtable was facilitated by Paul Cunningham, Manager, Strategic Donor relations at the Business School.

Key points discussed included:

### **Cost and difficulty of compliance and measuring sustainability**

- There was a great deal of discussion on this subject.
- What is the impact of compliance and measuring your sustainability on small businesses compared to larger firms?
- How do you make tools available to smaller firms in order to support their push to become more sustainability? This is considered crucial given the number of SMEs in New Zealand.
- Sian from Fuji Xerox discussed a new tool which is being trailed to measure the sustainability of projects. She highlighted that completing this tool was very time consuming, even for a large, well-resourced company such as FX.
- Martin Fryer, from Auckland airport discussed the issue from the perspective of a large organisation. It is hard to measure your supply chain when you are using multiple contractors and they are all using numerous sub-contractors. This view was supported by Nick, from the City Rail Link Project.

### **Measuring a sustainable supply chain**

An interesting discussion also emerged around the difficulty of measuring just how sustainable your supply chain is.

- As above, participants talked about measuring sustainability when you are using so many sub-contractors? As Martin from Auckland Airport noted, how do you encourage / incentivise suppliers to measure their diesel usage?
- What do you need to measure?
- How do you go about measuring it?
- What is realistic/ achievable?

### **How can business engage in university research?**

- There was a genuine interest from a couple of members, particularly from Sian at Fuji Xerox, about the opportunities to engage with the Business School in research.
- Tava discussed the Centre for Supply Chain management and offered to add interested parties to their mailing list.
- Student projects and post graduate research were highlighted as opportunities for companies to work with the School.