Author's response to reviews

Title: Identification and quantification of change in Australian illicit drug markets

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Response to reviewer 1

1. use of economic theory: we have adopted the reviewer's suggestion, and changed the phrase in the introduction from "answer" to "investigate". The first sentence of the final paragraph of the introduction now reads:

   In this paper we investigate this important question using two statistical methods: principal component analysis and SiZer analysis.

2. Use of the language of 'peak' and 'trough': the discussion has been changed so that these phrases now clearly refer to the data series rather than a market cycle, as suggested by the reviewer. For example, the first paragraph contains a sentence which refers to the "heroin market cycle": this phrase has been changed to "heroin market data series". The final sentence of the discussion has been changed to incorporate more clearly the assumption that the indicator data series analysed here may reflect the behaviour of the markets themselves, by inserting the phrase "inasmuch as the scale of heroin markets may be related to the numerical behaviour of major indicator data series". The full sentence now reads:

   Finally, inasmuch as the scale of heroin markets may be related to the numerical behaviour of major indicator data series, drug markets may be subject to non-random influence at their peak as well as when they are heading towards their trough, giving some comfort to those who believe that drug markets are controllable even when they are at their peak.