

An overview of think tanks based in New Zealand

Sustainable Future defines a think tank as an organisation, institute, corporation, council or group that conducts research and engages in advocacy in public policy. Think tanks derive income from a variety of sources, including commercial consulting and research, membership fees and private philanthropy.

Although there is no single generic model or mission, for the purposes of this paper we have excluded government organisations that employ civil servants, such as Crown Research Institutes, and NGOs that do not employ researchers, such as Futures Thinking Aotearoa. We have included two university-based think tanks but are aware there may be more throughout the country.

This table was prepared to provide further information on think tanks discussed in Think Piece 9: *Think Tanks: New Zealand's Own 'Ideas Factories'*. We would like to thank each of the organisations listed below, not only for providing the information that forms the table itself, but for the important work they do.

Think Tank	Established	Aim	Outputs	Staff Numbers and Membership March 2009	Total Expenses 2007/8	Total Assets 2007/8	Funded By	Charitable Trust Status
Cawthron Institute Nelson Gillian Wratt, Chief Executive www.cawthron.org.nz 03 548 2319	Founded in 1919 by a bequest from Thomas Cawthron	Focuses on the seafood industry, in particular aquaculture, and sustainable management of the coastal and freshwater environment	Produces research, advice and analysis	Full Time: 180 Part Time: 0 Members: n/a	\$15,439,455	\$8,641,630	Investments, research contracts, endowments, technical services, consultancy and other scientific projects	Yes The Cawthron Institute Trust Board CC23527
Centre for Strategic Studies Wellington Peter Cozens, Director www.victoria.ac.nz/css/ 04 463 5434	Founded in 1993 by Victoria University of Wellington	Focuses on matters of national security, defence, conflict resolution, arms control and disarmament in the Asia-Pacific region, and global issues such as human rights and sustainable development	Produces research and publishes books, working papers, discussion papers, strategic briefing papers, reports	Full Time: 2 Part Time: 0 Members: 10	–	–	Part of Victoria University's School of Government	No
Ecologic Foundation Nelson Guy Salmon, Executive Director www.ecologic.org.nz 03 548 3336	Founded in 1999 from the former Maruia Society by Guy Salmon	Focuses on bringing ecology, economy and ethics into harmony	Produces research reports, working papers, conference papers, <i>Ecologic</i> magazine and newsletters, submissions, consultancy and annual reports	Full Time: 2 Part Time: 0 5 sub-contractors also employed Members: 1200 (approx)	\$545,428 (2006/7)	\$426,505 (2006/7)	Research grants, consultancy, membership fees, donations and partners	Yes The Ecologic Foundation Incorporated CC11148
Institute of Policy Studies Wellington Jonathan Boston, Director www.ips.ac.nz 04 463 5307	Founded in 1983 by Victoria University of Wellington	Focuses on fostering discussion, research and publication of current issues of domestic and foreign policy	Produces research, publishes reports and conducts seminars	Full Time: 2 academics/researchers, 1 admin Part Time: 3-4 Members: 4-5 secondees from government depts at any one time; approximately 20 Associates and Senior Associates	Approx \$1.2 million	–	Part of Victoria University's School of Government	No
Maxim Institute Auckland Greg Fleming, CEO www.maxim.org.nz 09 627 3261	Co-founded in 2001 by Greg Fleming and Bruce Logan	Focuses on fostering ideas and leadership that enable freedom, justice and compassion to flourish in New Zealand	Produces research and analysis, develops and promotes public policy, trains and mentors young leaders	Full Time: 8 Part Time: 3 Members: n/a	\$1,265,338 (Dec 2007)	\$267,798 (Dec 2007)	Donations and regular monthly contributions from individuals and trusts	Yes Maxim Institute CC24446

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Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Wellington Dr Suzi Kerr, Director www.motu.org.nz 04 939 4250	Founded in 1998 by Dr Suzi Kerr and Dr David Maré	Focuses on enhancing the economic research and policy environment in New Zealand through producing high-quality, non-partisan research	Produces research, trains junior research staff, facilitates networks of researchers, teaches at universities and institutions, hosts foreign researchers and organises small conferences and dialogue groups	Full Time: 5 senior researchers, 6 junior researchers and 5 support staff Part Time: 2 senior researchers Members: None, but affiliate relationships with 15 researchers	\$1,882,546	\$1,343,200	Research grants form the bulk of income, with additional funds coming from interest and patrons	Yes Motu Research and Education Foundation CC10530
New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development Auckland Peter Neilson, Chief Executive www.nzbcسد.org.nz 09 525 9727	Founded in 1999 by Stephen Tindall of The Warehouse and Mike Andrews of Fletcher Challenge	To mainstream sustainability in business so it is 'just the way we do business in New Zealand'. Focuses on providing business leadership as a catalyst for change toward sustainable development, and promoting eco-efficiency, innovation and responsible entrepreneurship	Provides business leadership, policy development, projects and how to guides for business	Full Time: 5 Part Time: 0 Members: 73	\$1.5m	\$400,000	Members pay a subscription fee based on turnover of between \$2500 and \$20,000 plus GST. Members and non-members help fund project activity in which they have an interest	No. The organisation does lobby politicians for policy change and did not want that to be constrained by charitable status
New Zealand Business Roundtable Wellington Roger Kerr, Executive Director www.nzbr.org.nz 04 499 0790	Founded in the 1980s, initially as an informal coalition of chief executives	Focuses on contributing to the development of policies that reflect New Zealand's overall national interests	Produces research and publishes books, reports, and submissions, and undertakes other activities that inform/influence public debate on key policy issues	Full Time: 2 Part Time: 3 Members: 50	–	–	Members pay a subscription fee	Yes
The New Zealand Institute Auckland Benedikte Jensen, Research Director www.nzinstitute.org 09 309 6230	Founded in 2004 by Dr David Skilling	Focuses on generating new and creative debate, ideas, and solutions that contribute to building a better and more prosperous New Zealand for all New Zealanders	Produces research, undertakes projects, prepares reports and discussion papers and makes presentations	Full Time: 3 Part Time: 2 Members: 38	–	–	Members pay a subscription fee	No

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New Zealand Institute of Economic Research Wellington Jean-Pierre de Raad, Chief Executive www.nzier.org.nz 04 472 1880	Founded in 1958 as a result of the work of Horace Belshaw Macarthy Professor of Economics at Victoria University and four Wellington businessmen, encouraged by the Reserve Bank and with the support of the Prime Minister, Walter Nash	Focuses on being the premier centre of applied economic research in New Zealand	Produces economic forecasts to members and undertakes research in the national interest, and aims to encourage debate on economic issues affecting New Zealand	Full Time: 18 Part Time: 0 Members: 158	\$3,915,149	\$4,500,723	Subscriptions, contract research, grants and interest	Yes New Zealand Institute of Economic Research Incorporated CC33555
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Wellington Dr Jan Wright, Commissioner www.pce.govt.nz 04 471 1669	Founded in 1987 under the Environment Act 1986	To maintain or improve the quality of the environment by providing robust independent advice that influences decisions. The Environment Act 1986 allows each Commissioner the right to choose the direction taken by the organisation	Roles include: – to review and investigate (e.g. undertake investigations and respond to public complaints) – work with Parliament (e.g. provide assistance to select committees) – communicate and inform through the selection and dissemination of information related to the environment.	Full Time: 11 Part Time: 4 Members: n/a	\$2,295,406	\$1,038,080	Crown funding	No
Sustainability Council of New Zealand Wellington Simon Terry, Executive Director www.sustainabilitynz.org 04 913 3655	Founded in 2002 by Sir Peter Elworthy and Simon Terry	Focuses on assisting the realisation of a sustainable New Zealand and protecting and enhancing New Zealand's ecosystems, the health of New Zealanders, and the nation's ability to derive income from established land uses	Produces analysis on strategic environmental issues that is not otherwise available and provides information to assist well-informed and effective community participation in decision-making; research is distributed free of charge	Full Time: 2 Part Time: 0 Contractors also employed Members: n/a	–	–	Donations	Yes Sustainability Council of New Zealand Trust CC36671
The Sustainable Future Institute Wellington Wendy McGuinness, Chief Executive www.sustainablefuture.info 04 499 8888	Founded in 2003 by Wendy McGuinness	Focuses on exploring New Zealand's long-term future through three projects: <i>Project 2058</i> (which aims to develop a National Sustainable Development Strategy for NZ), <i>Project Genetic Modification</i> and <i>Pandemic Management</i>	Produces research and publishes reports, think pieces, submissions, newsletters, media releases, interviews and presentations	Full Time: 4 Part Time: 5 Others employed on a casual basis Members: n/a	\$380,967	\$41,443 (Mar 2009)	Privately funded, donations	Yes The New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation Trust CC10457

Key:

– indicates this information was unavailable at time of publishing.