

Submission

Submission for the Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

3 June 2015

Climate Change Contribution Consultation
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
Wellington 6143

To the Climate Change Contribution Consultation team,

Please accept the following letter and attachments as the McGuinness Institute's submission for the consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target.

Chief Executive Wendy McGuinness would appreciate the opportunity to be heard in support of this submission.

Kind regards,



Hannah Steiner
Project Manager

Attached:

Report 10: One Ocean: Principles for the stewardship of a healthy and productive ocean (March 2015).

Contact details:

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McGuinness Institute Submission: Submission for the Consultation on setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

About the McGuinness Institute

The McGuinness Institute, formerly the Sustainable Future Institute, was founded in 2004. The Institute is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organisation working towards a sustainable future. It aims to contribute to public dialogue on strategic issues through evidence based research and policy analysis. Project 2058 is the Institutes flagship project which includes a research programme that aims to explore New Zealand's long-term future. In preparing this submission the Institute draws largely on the McGuinness Institute's overarching project, *Project 2058*, and in particular our work on *Project One Ocean*:

- March 2015: *Report 10: One Ocean: Principles for the stewardship of a healthy and productive ocean*
- March 2015: *Working Paper 2015/03: Legal instruments of New Zealand's oceans management*
- January 2015: *Working Paper 2015/01: Ocean Management in New Zealand: Findings from a structured discussion*
- March 2014: *Submission: Draft for Consultation: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects - Discharge and Dumping) Regulations 2014*
- February 2014: *Submission: Draft for Consultation: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects - Non-Notified Activities) Regulations 2013*
- September 2013: *Submission: Activity classifications under the EEZ Act: A discussion document on the regulation of exploratory drilling, discharges of harmful substances and dumping of waste in the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf*
- June 2012: *Submission: Regulations proposed under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill*
- February 2012: *Written responses to questions from committee: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill*
- February 2012: *Oral Submission: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill*
- January 2012: *Submission: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill*

About the Chief Executive

Wendy McGuinness wrote the report *Implementation of Accrual Accounting in Government Departments* for the Treasury in 1988. She founded McGuinness & Associates, a consultancy firm providing services to the public sector during the transition from cash to accrual accounting. From 2003–2004 she was Chair of the NZICA Sustainable Development Reporting Committee and became a fellow chartered accountant (FCA) in 2009. In 2004 she established the Institute in order to contribute to a more integrated discussion on New Zealand's long-term future.

Introduction

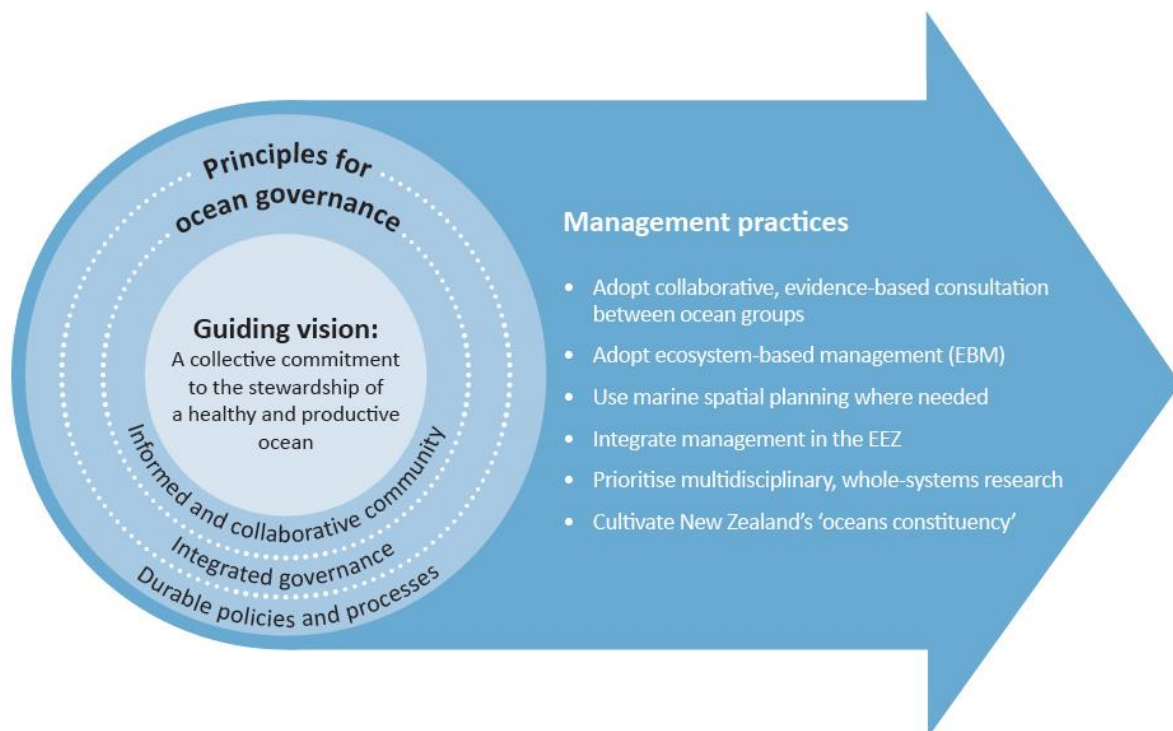
The McGuinness Institute has been researching policy surrounding ocean management in New Zealand since 2010. It is clear to us that ocean management is quickly becoming a hot issue for the long-term future of New Zealand and other countries. The Institute focuses on ocean change, as understanding oceans is essential to understanding how climate change will affect New Zealand in the future.

In March 2015 the Institute published the report *One Ocean: Principles for the stewardship of a healthy and productive ocean*. The report explores the seascape of New Zealand – the past, present and future. It identifies the need for change in the way New Zealand governs its ocean space and the upcoming opportunities and challenges this presents.

The report finds that the current ocean governance framework lacks the vision, the principles and a place where experts, citizens, businesses and interest groups can share accurate information and develop meaningful ways forward. Instead, decision-makers are left to grapple with complex issues under urgency and without guidance. This has been an ongoing problem, and it is time to make the system work for the public good. We need to future-proof our economic growth and wellbeing by putting in place a process that informs the public, businesses and policy analysts in an integrated considered way.

Figure 1 below (Figure 9 in the report) illustrates the report's recommendations and puts forward three principles to help guide progress towards a shared 'vision' – a collective commitment which relies on the support of local government and communities.

Figure 1: Relationship between the guiding for New Zealand's oceans, principles for governance and specific recommended management practices



Please find attached a PDF copy of the aforementioned report, *Report 10: One Ocean: Principles for the stewardship of a healthy and productive ocean* (March 2015).

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Recommendation: Create a Pacific and Southern Oceans Institute

The Institute focuses on ocean change, as understanding oceans is essential to understanding how climate change will affect New Zealand in the future. Per capita, New Zealand has one of the largest areas of continental shelf in the world, and it is important that we think about policy and values that drive our management of this vast resource. The Institute sees the effective use and management of New Zealand's resources as an integral part of our sustainable future.

Future New Zealanders deserve a more progressive approach to ocean management. If government does not create a minister of oceans, a Ministry of Oceans or a parliamentary commissioner for oceans, then New Zealanders must find other ways to progress the management of this public asset for the good of current and future New Zealanders.

Creating a Pacific and Southern Oceans Institute is one way to bring people together to explore the management of this asset from a 'public good' perspective. This would act as an independent institution that brings together ocean research and public policy development in a considered and integrated way. Further, it would allow New Zealand to contribute a shared organisation that will link economics and science together to ensure accurate information can be shared on a global scale.

We believe a Pacific and Southern Oceans Institute is an important consideration for New Zealand to put forward as it sets its post-2020 climate change target in preparing for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris this December.

Our next steps

The Institute will be hosting a small round-table discussion on what a Pacific and Southern Oceans Institute may look like in mid-June. If you would like to learn more about the results of this discussion, please do not hesitate to contact us.