

2058

PROJECT 2058 UPDATE

Issue One August 2007

Welcome to the first update of *Project 2058*.

2007... 2008... 2009... time is ticking along quickly – what will New Zealand look like 50 years from now? Why should we care? What potential risks and opportunities are we facing and what strengths and weaknesses do we have to manage to deliver a sustainable New Zealand?

Introducing Project 2058

Project 2058 is an ambitious two-year study to explore New Zealand's sustainable future. The aim of *Project 2058* is to look at how New Zealand may look and feel in fifty years. Ultimately, *Project 2058* will develop our vision of a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) in two years time. Along the way, the *Project 2058* team is working hard to release in-depth reports on the current state of play in terms of sustainable development in New Zealand (see the results from the first of our just-released reports over the page). Later we hope to create four five-minute films highlighting different scenarios of what New Zealand could look like in fifty years time.

Why 2058?

Fifty years is not too far away, yet current planning doesn't consider the changes we may face in this timeframe. It is important to take a long-term view, looking out to future horizons. Issues such as climate change, food miles, genetic modification, water and waste management and transport alternatives will affect us, our children and our grandchildren in the next fifty years. Short-term thinking is not adequate for tackling these issues and developing a sustainable New Zealand.

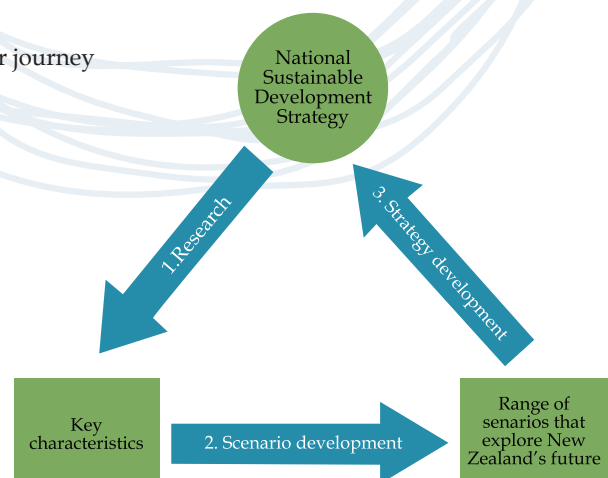
Who's behind Project 2058?

Project 2058 is funded by the New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation Trust. Sustainable Future is an independent sustainability think-tank based in Wellington. It was set up by risk management expert, Wendy McGuinness, who was concerned at the lack of an integrated long-term sustainable development plan for New Zealand or a National Sustainable Development Strategy. The website www.sustainablefuture.info hosts a wealth of information and research about sustainability issues locally and worldwide.

What is our journey?

Project 2058's methodology clarifies the thinking and processes behind our journey. It is very much an evolving work and is being continually updated through peer review and further research. Version 2 of the Methodology is available on our website for perusal and comment.

Figure 1: *Project 2058's* two-year journey



LATEST RESEARCH

The *Project 2058* team is delighted to release the conclusions of the first two reports and three slideshows. These can be viewed in full on our website www.2058.net.nz.

REPORT 1 - A National Sustainable Development Strategy: How New Zealand measures up against international commitments.

The key finding of this report is that New Zealand has made little progress towards meeting its commitment to United Nations member states to produce a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). New Zealand made this commitment in 1997 at a Special Session of the UN General Assembly and in 2002 under the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*.

In 2001, Cabinet agreed to produce a NSDS. In January 2003, the government adopted the Sustainable Development Programme of Action (SDPOA) as a stepping stone on the path towards a NSDS. The programme ran until July 2006. Although the SDPOA was now completed over twelve months ago, no further stepping stones have emerged. *Project 2058* is a response to this lack of progress.

Background Paper 1a – International NSDS Milestones: 1970 to Today

This background paper provides the historical context to the two international commitments mentioned above.

Background Paper 1b – A Stakeholder Evaluation of the Sustainable Development Programme of Action

This background paper concludes that the SDPOA was a well-intentioned first attempt at designing and implementing a cohesive approach to sustainable development policy in New Zealand. However, it has not delivered the desired level of integration and its outcomes were not of the scale required to achieve long-term sustainability.

REPORT 2 – Central Government Strategies: Reviewing the Landscape 1990-2007

The purpose of this paper is to promote the view that central government policy and practice would significantly benefit from a NSDS. This paper analyses and reviews eighty major strategies released between 1990 and 2007, under both Labour and National governments.

One of the key findings of the report is that central government strategy development does not follow any overarching goal or plan for sustainable development. Nor is there a central long-term integrated strategy upon which to develop and align specific national strategies.

This report recommends that the government develop an overarching NSDS to align all its strategies. It also recommends the government should develop a central government framework and a process for identifying, reporting, and updating individual strategies.

Background Paper 2a – Central Government Policy Integration

This background paper concludes that there is significant potential to improve central government strategy cohesion and integration. It recommends that central government policy instruments be better managed, aligned and integrated.

A YEAR IN PHOTOS: 1858, 1908 and 1958

This photo was taken 50 years ago - *Project 2058* aims to give us a snapshot of what life will look like in another 50 years. Check out www.2058.net.nz to see slideshows of more photos.

New Zealand Country Library Service Bookvan librarian delivering a suitcase of library books to a rural client. Photographed by Eric Lee Johnson in the 1950s. Reference number: PAColl-0522-1-03
The Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.



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