

## **MCGUINNESS INSTITUTE MEDIA RELEASE - 12 May 2015**

*Why a 'Pacific and Southern Ocean Institute' might be a good idea for New Zealand  
As discussed at the One Ocean Auckland launch and discussion, 12 May 2015*

The *One Ocean* report illustrates why sound public policy is difficult to develop at present. Wendy McGuinness, CEO, states: 'The current ocean governance framework lacks the vision, the principles and a place for experts, citizens, business and interest groups to come together to share accurate information and develop meaningful ways forward.'

'Instead, decision-makers are left to grapple with difficult and complex issues under urgency and without guidance. This has been an on-going 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 public, business and policy analysts in an integrated considered way.'

'Future New Zealanders deserve a more progressive approach. If government is not willing to make changes within the current framework, such as creating a Minister of Oceans, a Ministry of Oceans or a Parliamentary Commissioner of 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.'

McGuinness believes: 'We must find a way to explore the management of this asset from a public good perspective and the establishment of a 'Pacific and Southern Ocean Institute' might be one way to bring people together. This could include global connections with other countries, such as Russia, China, South Korea, Germany and the US.'

'Put simply, we need to work harder at bringing science and economics together.'

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**About the McGuinness Institute:** The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future, contributing strategic foresight through evidence-based research and policy analysis. We endeavour to undertake research that is independent, innovative and relevant in an educational, professional and ethical manner.

### **Links of interest:**

McGuinness Institute website: <http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org>

Project One Ocean webpage:

[http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/Site/Projects/One\\_Ocean/One\\_Ocean\\_Homepage.aspx](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/Site/Projects/One_Ocean/One_Ocean_Homepage.aspx)

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