

Sustainable Future calls on New Zealanders to commit to a national strategy

Unlike many other countries, New Zealand does not have a suitable institutional framework to progress a national strategy, according to latest research from Sustainable Future.

The independent think-tank has just released its latest research reports as part of *Project 2058*, a two year research project aiming to promote long-term thinking and leadership in sustainable development. A short Think Piece was also prepared to accompany the reports, titled *What is a National Sustainable Development Strategy?*

The three reports, (i) *Institutions for Sustainable Development: Learning from international experience*, (ii) *Institutions for Sustainable Development: Developing an optimal framework for New Zealand*, and (iii) *The Common Elements of a National Sustainable Development Strategy: Learning from international experience*, investigate international best-practice, to understand how well-equipped New Zealand is to progress such a strategy.

Sustainable Future's Chief Executive, Wendy McGuinness, recommends that "government should establish a Sustainable Development Council, and designate an existing government body as the lead decision-making body to progress sustainable development."

Sustainable Future believes that because international examples showed a tendency towards a focus on external pressures and challenges, there is an opportunity for New Zealand to develop a strategy that stands out in terms of marketing our values and unique competitive advantages to the world.

And Mrs McGuinness says "Perhaps more importantly, a National Sustainable Development Strategy would provide a mechanism to encourage discussion, build capacity, gain consensus, align initiatives and foster respect."

"Furthermore, with the election upon us, now is the time for New Zealanders to develop a national strategy, not because we have to, but because we want what it can deliver."

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For further information please contact:

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive
Sustainable Future
04 499 8888

These Reports, as well as the Think Piece are available from:
<http://sustainablefuture.info/Site/Publications/default.aspx>