



All of the Institute's public policy workshops for young people are experiments, and *ForesightNZ* was no exception. The participants embraced the broadness of their task to create a pack of cards focused on New Zealand's future. Long periods of certainty can breed lazy thinking. The unique set of cards developed by participants can be used to play a range of different games, each one challenging players to engage with uncertainty. Besides being fun, the aim is for players to learn agile, creative and antifragile thinking – building capability for an uncertain future. Foresight is indefinite by definition, and to enter into a foresight workshop with too prescriptive a goal would defeat the purpose entirely. Rather, the objective was

to encourage young people to think the unthinkable and focus on possible futures rather than their preferred future. With this in mind, they were asked to think about the future in terms of events and trends, and to acknowledge that trends can often deliver a game changer event – in other words, some trends quietly lead to a major unforeseen or unexpected event. Participants chose Event Cards that would stretch their – and our – imaginations, and these tend to be more negative and therefore more challenging. They are not predictions, but are designed to enable dynamic and robust discussion. In contrast, the Trend Cards are less extreme and aim to give an understanding of

the ebbs and flows that currently shape our future. After learning about the four capitals which sit at the heart of the Treasury's *Living Standards Framework* (economic, social, human and natural), participants decided to include these as Capital Cards, encouraging players to think about how events and trends might impact the availability of our country's resources. The fact that participants rose so readily to this challenge bodes very well for the future of New Zealand. We hope the *ForesightNZ* cards will provide a useful resource for businesses, communities and schools wishing to explore New Zealand's long-term future.

ForesightNZ Playing Cards

ForesightNZ workshop was a collaboration between the New Zealand Treasury and the McGuinness Institute. Follow the conversation at #ForesightNZ.