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DOIA 2122-0456

Wendy McGuinness  
[wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)

21 September 2021

Dear Wendy

I refer to your request of 24 August 2021 for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*The McGuinness Institute understands that a government-led review of New Zealand's science and innovation sector, and specifically Crown Research Institutes, is currently in progress. I am writing to see if you could answer the following four questions:*

*Question 1: Is the review ongoing and if yes, when might the resulting report be published?*

*Question 2: Is there an opportunity for the Institute to provide a submission and/or meet to discuss access/preparation of climate change data/scenarios?*

*Question 3: Is there any consideration (in the review or more broadly) of MBIE or a CRI being designated responsibility to create climate scenarios?*

*Question 4: Is NIWA required under legislation to produce climate scenarios? If yes, where is that requirement stipulated in the legislation? Alternatively (or in addition), if it is implied or agreed in the Budget, can you please provide the detail and/or links to the relevant document/s?*

*Question 5: Has reference climate scenarios (or their equivalent, see our tentative definition below) been discussed in any Cabinet Papers or reports. If yes, please forward a copy of the Cabinet Paper/s?*

I have attached responses to your questions as an annex to this letter. We note that, while MBIE is the lead agency for the Future Pathways review of New Zealand's public science system, the Ministry of the Environment may have more fulsome information about reference climate scenarios specifically.



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Manager, Future Pathways  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment



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**Annex: Responses**

**Question 1: Is the review ongoing and if yes, when might the resulting report be published?**

The Government is developing the Future Pathways programme to investigate options for the future of New Zealand's public science system. This programme will begin with the release of a discussion document in the next few months, which will seek public input on a range of issues facing the research system, how these issues might be addressed, and how to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Indicative dates for the programme will be announced when the discussion document is released.

**Question 2: Is there an opportunity for the Institute to provide a submission and/or meet to discuss access/preparation of climate change data/scenarios?**

Yes, submissions will be open to the public and we will be hosting a range of meetings and workshops on the Future Pathways programme with interested parties.

In regards to climate change data and scenarios specifically, we recommend you contact the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) to arrange a meeting with that agency. MfE will be able to discuss the issues in more detail and is supporting work on the Future Pathways programme

**Question 3: Is there any consideration (in the review or more broadly) of MBIE or a CRI being designated responsibility to create climate scenarios?**

Not at this stage. The discussion document seeks feedback on the overall design of the science system. The specific responsibilities of public research organisations will be discussed following that consultation.

**Question 4: Is NIWA required under legislation to produce climate scenarios? If yes, where is that requirement stipulated in the legislation? Alternatively (or in addition), if it is implied or agreed in the Budget, can you please provide the detail and/or links to the relevant document/s?**

NIWA is not required by legislation to produce reference climate scenarios. To the best of our knowledge, we are not aware of any budget implications or agreements on this topic.

***Question 5: Has reference climate scenarios (or their equivalent, see our tentative definition below) been discussed in any Cabinet Papers or reports. If yes, please forward a copy of the Cabinet Paper/s?***

To date, reference climate scenarios have not been discussed in MBIE's Cabinet papers or reports on the Future Pathways programme.

