



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review

**Portfolios**                      **Agriculture / Climate Change**

On 27 March 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the National-ACT coalition agreement includes a commitment to “Maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and targets in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”;
- 2        **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change (the Ministers) intend to undertake a Methane Science and Target Review (the Review) and establish an independent ministerial advisory panel (the Panel) to:
  - 2.1      review the methane science;
  - 2.2      provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane;
- 3        **noted** that the Ministers will progress a two-step process for the Review:
  - 3.1      by 8 April 2024, along with their Associate Ministers, publicly announce that the Review will be progressed and that the Panel will be established;
  - 3.2      in May 2024, seek Cabinet’s approval to initiate the Review and establish the Panel, which will include a clear scope of the Review, the terms of reference, appointees and any other relevant considerations;
- 4        **noted** that as the biogenic methane targets are part of a series of interrelated emissions budgets and targets, any future decisions on the biogenic methane components of the 2050 target are likely to have implications for the wider economy and broader ministerial portfolios.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendance: (see over)**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Judith Collins  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for ECO