

08-B-1074

18 November 2008

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Climate Change Issues

Briefing about the Environment Portfolio and the Ministry for the Environment

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing note to present our post-election briefing to the incoming Minister for the Environment, an all-of-government briefing on climate change work programmes, and a briefing on environmental sustainability developed by natural resources agencies. The briefing note also provides some additional information about the Ministry, including key contacts.

Environmental stewardship for a prosperous New Zealand

2. Our post-election briefing to the incoming Minister for the Environment is enclosed. This briefing, 'Environmental stewardship for a prosperous New Zealand', provides an introduction to the Environment Portfolio and the Ministry for the Environment. Our perspective on 'a prosperous New Zealand' encompasses social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being.
3. The Ministry's briefing provides information about the state of New Zealand's environment, the sustainability issues facing New Zealand, the environmental management systems, the Ministry for the Environment, and your statutory responsibilities as the Minister for the Environment. It also notes a small number of issues that may need your attention before the end of the year.
4. A separate briefing for incoming climate change Ministers on the all-of-government climate change work programme has been prepared by the relevant departments. A copy of this briefing is also enclosed. We recommend that you forward copies to your colleagues who have climate change interests.
5. In addition, government agencies with an interest in natural resources and the environment have collaborated to prepare a joint paper on critical issues for environmental sustainability, some of the choices to be made in addressing environmental sustainability, and the capability

improvements needed in central government. This paper is also enclosed.

6. The briefings are supported by the Ministry's *Statement of Intent 2008 – 2011*, which gives an overview of our current work programmes. A copy is enclosed.
7. We recommend that you provide copies of all of this material to the Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations), Hon Tim Groser.
8. We will provide more detailed information on specific issues and work programme priorities through oral and written briefings, as required to meet your needs.
9. We will also provide a weekly 'status report' on the Ministry's activities. This will cover issues you need to be aware of that week, Cabinet papers due to be sent to your office or considered by Cabinet, and briefings notes and speeches that you can expect to receive during the week.
10. We would welcome an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss your priorities in the portfolio and how we can help you to address them.

Key people and contacts

11. The key people and roles in the Ministry's Senior Leadership Team are as follows:
 - Dr Paul Reynolds, Chief Executive
[withheld under s9(2)(a)]
 - Lindsay Gow, Deputy Chief Executive
 - Prue Densem, Acting General Manager, Central Government Policy Group
 - Sue Powell, General Manager, Local Government Group
 - Martyn Pinckard, Acting General Manager, Sustainable Business Group
 - Todd Krieble, General Manager, Reporting and Communications Group
 - Andrew Crisp, Acting General Manager, Corporate and Community Group
 - Chappie Te Kani, Tumuaki Māori.
12. A copy of the Ministry's organisational chart is attached. It shows the current structure of the Ministry and the teams that comprise each business group.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- (a) Note the Ministry for the Environment's post-election briefing 'Environmental stewardship for a prosperous New Zealand', which will provide the basis for more detailed briefings and discussions on particular issues
- (b) Note the briefing about the all-of-government climate change work programme that has been prepared for incoming climate change Ministers
- (c) Note the paper on environmental sustainability prepared by government agencies in the natural resources network
- (d) Agree to forward copies of these briefings to the Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues
- (e) Agree to forward copies of the briefing on the all-of-government climate change programme to the Minister of Finance and Minister for Infrastructure, Minister of Energy and Resources, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forestry, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Conservation, and the Minister of Research, Science and Technology
- (f) Advise the Ministry of anything in these briefings that you wish to discuss further with us or to receive more detailed information about in the near future
- (g) Note the contact information for the Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment.

Dr Paul Reynolds
Secretary for the Environment and Chief Executive

Date:

Date:

Hon Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment

Minister's Comments

Administration

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister for the Environment	Note contact information for the Ministry's Chief Executive. Forward copies of all briefings to the Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations) Forward copies of the all-of-government climate change briefing to other climate change ministers.	None

Ministry for the Environment Contacts

Principal Author

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Kathy McNeill	Team Leader, Strategic Business Unit	[withheld under s9(2)(a)]	

Responsible Manager

Name	Position and Unit	Telephone Work	Cellphone
Lindsay Gow	Deputy Chief Executive	[withheld under s9(2)(a)]	

Responsible Group Leader

Name	Position and Unit	Telephone Work	Cellphone
*Paul Reynolds	Chief Executive	[withheld under s9(2)(a)]	

* Suggested first contact