



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Aligning Land-Based Sector Work Programmes

Portfolios **Environment / Agriculture**

On 28 May 2018, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **agreed** that the government's goal for the land-based sectors is that New Zealand becomes the world leader in the provision of high value, environmentally sustainable primary products and services, so that New Zealand land-based enterprises:
 - 1.1 are profitable, resilient, confident and innovative;
 - 1.2 benefit commercially from New Zealand's increasingly strong credentials as environmentally responsible and sustainable;
 - 1.3 play a critical and respected role as part of the government's overall effort to create high-value primary sector exports;
 - 1.4 move quickly to stop further degradation to New Zealand's environment and productive capacity;
 - 1.5 are increasingly helping to reverse the damage previously done to New Zealand's environment and steadily reducing their contribution to climate change;
 - 1.6 are socially responsible and remain able to support strong, resilient and prosperous rural communities;

- 2 **agreed** that in pursuing the goal outlined in paragraph 1 above, the government acknowledges and affirms:
 - 2.1 the critical role and contribution of the land-based sectors to New Zealand's current and future prosperity, and the importance of these sectors to addressing global challenges, such as food supply, biodiversity loss, and climate change;
 - 2.2 the increasing variability of climate, driven by climate change, which affects the land-based sectors;
 - 2.3 the imperative to ensure land-based businesses are sustainable, resilient, adaptive, and market-led;
 - 2.4 the significant cumulative change facing landowners, and the stress this will place on individuals, their families and rural communities;

- 2.5 the importance of on-going flexibility in land use, recognising that this must be aligned with landowners facing the true costs, and in particular the costs to the environment, of their decisions;
 - 2.6 the critical role regulation can play, particularly where external costs are not, or cannot be, applied to businesses through prices;
 - 2.7 that considerable work has been done in some local communities, and by the sector, councils, iwi, and central government to address environmental impacts, but that many of the most difficult problems have not yet been resolved, and that there is now a need for government leadership;
 - 2.8 that Māori land has, for several reasons, been under-developed compared to other land, and that the government needs to:
 - 2.8.1 recognise the potential of further developing Māori land and incorporating Te Ao Māori into land-based businesses;
 - 2.8.2 provide for equitable development opportunities for Māori land, in line with the owners' aspirations;
 - 2.9 that a just transition is needed to achieve sustainable land use, which the government will support fairly and effectively;
 - 2.10 that New Zealand's technological expertise can be utilised and developed so as to maximise the economic opportunities born of new technologies and higher value land uses;
 - 2.11 that while alteration of the environment through human and economic activity is unavoidable, aggregate or cumulative effects need to be sustainable across generations;
 - 2.12 that no one has an intrinsic right to pollute;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment and Minister of Agriculture intend to use the following groups to govern, oversee and align the government's initiatives on sustainable land-based sectors:
- 3.1 a Ministerial group, to provide overall governance and make connections across the government's relevant initiatives;
 - 3.2 a supporting group of Chief Executives, to ensure the Public Service can deliver the government's ambitious work programme and aligns its activities with the goals for sustainable land use;
- 4 **invited** the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Agriculture, Minister of Forestry, Minister for Māori Development, Minister for Climate Change and Minister of Conservation to work with other relevant Ministers to establish the Ministerial group described in paragraph 3.1 above;
- 5 **directed** the Chief Executives of relevant government departments to work to align their relevant activities and priorities to support the goal outlined in paragraph 1 above, informed over time by the development of the pan-industry vision and strategy for the land-based sectors;

6 **noted** that the paper under CBC-18-SUB-0062 will be proactively released, subject to any appropriate redactions.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon James Shaw

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Māori Development
Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Forestry
Minister of Conservation