



Science advice in Aotearoa, New Zealand a bridge between research and policy?

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Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor

Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

Outline

- Quick overview of my new role, my vision and priorities
- Four principles: **Rigorous, inclusive, transparent, accessible**
- Types of advice
- Case studies:
 - Plastics – major project
 - Standards – small project
 - Carbon Zero Bill – informal advice
 - Foulden Maar – ‘conduit of alerts’

Your thoughts?

What does the PMCSA/KMPMP do?

Provide independent advice to the Prime Minister on science in its very broadest sense.

Specifically:

- advising on specific matters relating to science for the Prime Minister or other Ministers – either informally or in a formally commissioned reports
- promoting the public understanding of, and engagement with, science, particularly with young people
- serving as a conduit of alerts that might arise where scientific progress shows either opportunity or threat for New Zealand - where scientists see something emerging that they think policy makers need to be aware of, to assist with communication
- building international relationships

VISION for the role

a trusted, accessible bridge between scientists, society and government

PRINCIPLES*

Inclusive, Rigorous, Transparent, Accessible

CHALLENGE

Providing advice on a useful timescale

* Nature, June 2018 : Four principles to make evidence synthesis more useful for policy

Priority: Listening

- What is the single most important science topic upon which I should advise the PM?



- Work plan available at www.pmcsa.ac.nz

Accessible, transparent ...

Celebrating science in Aotearoa, NZ

Instagram: @nz_chief_science_advisor

Send me your stunning science images via Twitter



Twitter:

NZ ChiefSciAdvisor, @ChiefSciAdvisor



New website: www.pmcsa.ac.nz

New office: 1-11 Short Street, Auckland 1010

From

A collection of individual
Departmental Science Advisors

- Health
- Environment
- Education
- Social Development
- Justice,
- Conservation
- Primary Industries
- Defence
- Transport,
- Statistics
- Business Innovation and Employment
- EPA
- *Coming soon ... Housing and Urban
Development*

To

- A higher profile INCLUSIVE Science
Advisors' Forum



Let's talk about Gill ...



- Co-opted onto the CSA Forum
- Looking at ways to connect around science in emergencies
- Good examples around scenario modelling and Table Top Exercises overseas

#rethinkplastic – major project

The screenshot shows a web browser window with several tabs open. The active tab is the website of the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. The page features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Our Role', 'Our Community', 'Our activities', and 'Links'. The main heading is 'Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa, New Zealand'. Below the heading, there are two paragraphs of text. A red horizontal line is positioned below the second paragraph. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'Panel Members' with a list of names and affiliations. The background of the bottom section is a scenic image of a coastline with blue water and green hills.

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Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa, New Zealand

After broad consultation, the first project that the Office will be working on is a synthesis of approaches to reduce the impact of plastic and to explore the opportunities and challenge for alternatives in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Juliet has assembled an initial panel who will finalise the scope of the work and contribute to assessing evidence across disciplines. Aspects of the work will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the range of plastics entering New Zealand and the range of social and technological solutions to issues in the plastic life cycle – from production through to consumer behaviour and disposal.


The panel to engage in scoping the project met on the 5th of February. Their initial task was to finalise the scope for the project.

In addition to a core panel, we are also maintaining a larger reference group, including academics with key specialities and skills and people in industry. They will assist us in making sure the advice is timely and relevant. We are also building contacts with local government and central government agencies.

Panel Members

- Dr Diane Ruwhiu, University of Otago
- Dr Elspeth MacRae, Scion
- Assoc Professor Sarah McLaren, Massey University
- Dr Niki Harre, University of Auckland

Standards – small project



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Science and the Development of NZ Standards

May 8, 2019 | Reports

The Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs asked the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor to work jointly with the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) on how science is currently treated in the New Zealand standards setting process, and how this can be improved. ([Hon Min Faafoi's press release is here](#)). Our role was to provide input as to how scientific evidence might be better used to inform the standards setting process, particularly advice on how processes should accommodate new scientific evidence when it becomes available.

Science and the development of NZS 8510:2017 – Policy outcome

Published by MBIE: 08 May 2019

Following joint work between the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor (PMCSA) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) on the science-focussed elements of future standards development, Standards New Zealand will now seek the involvement of the MBIE Chief Science Advisor when developing new standards or revising existing standards which include new or unsettled science. This may occur:

- during commissioning of the new or revised standard
- during standard development
- while a draft standard is undergoing public consultation.

Recent Posts

The fable of Foulden Maar – a case study in the collision of scientific evidence and government policies?

Science and Standards – what happened after the meth report?

Science and the Development of NZ Standards

A quick update

#rethinkplastic resources

Archives

May 2019

April 2019

March 2019

February 2019

January 2019

The carbon zero bill – informal advice

“flagship climate change policy will treat biological methane far more softly than all other greenhouse gas emissions – but still mandates a large reduction ... at least 10% by 2030 and 24-47% by 2050”

Landmark climate change bill goes to Parliament

Henry Cooke · 11:11, May 08 2019



HENRY COOKE/STUFF

Climate Change Minister James Shaw said this bill would deliver a future for children striking for climate change.

The Government's flagship climate change policy will treat biological methane far more softly than all other greenhouse gas emissions – but still mandates a large reduction.

Governments will be mandated to reduce biological methane by at least 10 per cent by 2030 and between 24 and 47 per cent by 2050. All other emissions would be reduced to "net zero" by 2050 to limit global warming increases to 1.5C.

“conduit of alerts” – the fable of Foulden Maar

5:31

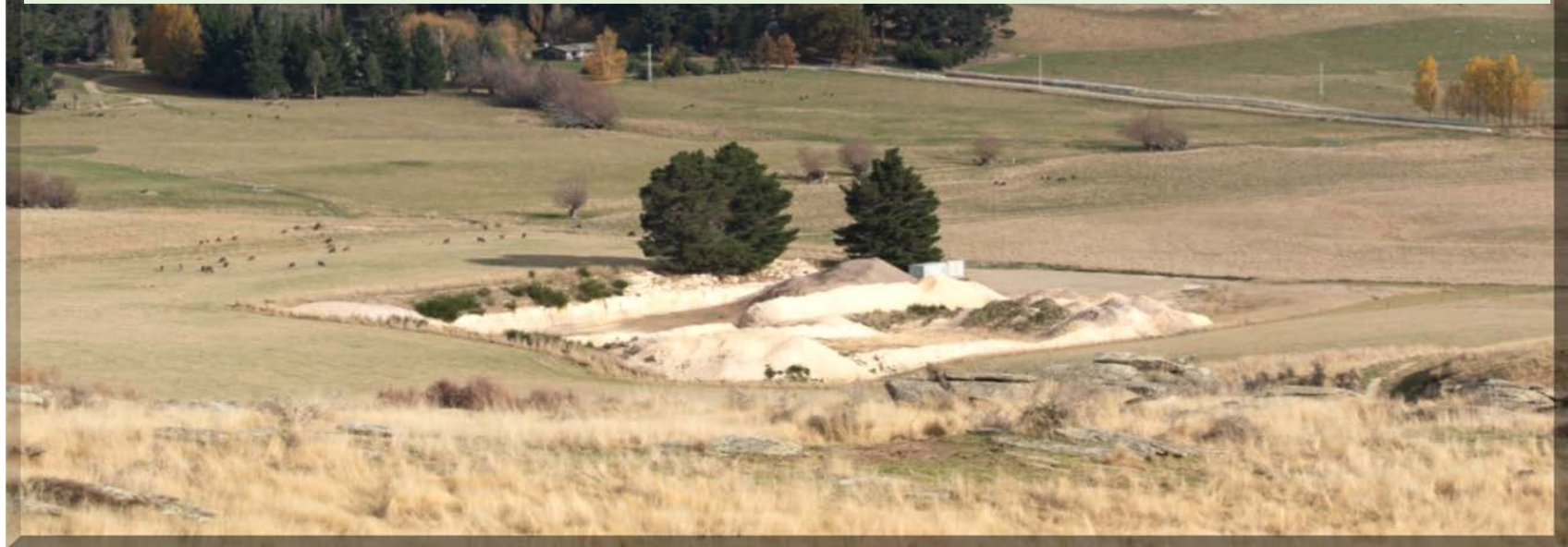
pmcsa.ac.nz

The fable of Foulden Maar – a case study in the collision of scientific evidence and government policies?

May 17, 2019 | Reflections



“The crater is millions of years old and, due to a fortuitous series of events, is thought to hold a largely unblemished fossil record. It provides a unique glimpse of Aotearoa New Zealand’s past, with its special flora and fauna captured over time.”



Questions for you

Q1.

How can the CSA Forum better position itself to translate your research evidence base into policy?



Questions for you

Q2.

Where is there an evidence base that is not being used by government?



Your questions, comments?

Ngā mihi nui

