



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Initiating the Methane Science and Target Review

Portfolios **Agriculture / Climate Change**

On 29 May 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in April 2024, ECO noted the Minister of Agriculture's and Minister of Climate Change's intention to undertake a methane science and target review (the Review) and establish an independent Review Panel (the Panel) to:
 - 1.1 review the methane science;
 - 1.2 provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane;

[ECO-24-MIN-0042]
- 2 **noted** that Action 13 of the Government's Action Plan for New Zealand (1 April to 30 June 2024) commits to 'commence an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions';
- 3 **agreed** to the draft Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix One under ECO-24-SUB-0096, which details the scope, context, working approach, and operational requirements of the Panel;
- 4 **noted** that candidates short-listed for Panel membership will provide further feedback on the Terms of Reference;
- 5 **noted** that officials will provide advice on the baseline to inform the final Terms of Reference;
- 6 **authorised** the Ministers of Climate Change and Agriculture, and the Associate Ministers of Agriculture and Climate Change to finalise the Terms of Reference, including the baseline year (not inconsistent with prior Cabinet decisions and in consultation with relevant Ministers) following any feedback from short-listed candidates, by 24 June 2024;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change are currently engaging with Ministerial colleagues on the list of Panel candidates;

- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change intend to report back to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee by 18 June 2024 with their proposed Panel candidates;
- 9 **agreed** that the Review will commence on 30 June 2024.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for ECO