



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



To: Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Agriculture
Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change
From: Julie Collins, Deputy Director-General, Policy & Trade, Ministry for Primary Industries
Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary, Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency,
Ministry for the Environment

Cover briefing: Cabinet paper – Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Date | 15 March 2024 | Reference | MPI: B24-0230 MfE: BRF-449 |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Decision required | Date decision required by |
| YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 March 2024 |

Purpose

- The appended draft Cabinet paper (at **Appendix One**) provides an update on the proposed approach for publicly announcing a review of the methane science and target.

Background

- The Minister of Agriculture met with the Ministry for Primary Industries officials on Monday 11 March, and:
 - directed officials to prepare a Cabinet paper to socialise the upcoming methane science and target review with your Cabinet colleagues; and
 - indicated the intention to announce the methane science and target review in early April, in advance of the Climate Change Commission releasing its draft advice on our domestic climate change target for public consultation on 8 April.
- The appended draft Cabinet paper informs Cabinet of your intention to establish an independent Ministerial advisory panel (the Panel) to review the methane science and provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.

3. This draft Cabinet paper also outlines the two-step process to announce the Review and subsequently establish the panel and initiate the review:
- a) by 8 April 2024: Publicly announce that a Review will be progressed, and an independent Ministerial advisory panel will be established; and
 - b) May 2024: Seek Cabinet's approval to initiate the Review, including on the expected outputs of the Review and the Panel, a clear scope of the Review, the terms of reference, appointees and any other relevant considerations.
4. There are short timeframes to announce the Review before 8 April. To support meeting this deadline, we propose the following steps to ensure Cabinet consideration on 2 April.

| Date | Step |
|----------------|---|
| 15 March | Ministers receive Cabinet paper |
| 18 March | Ministers feedback provided to officials |
| 19 to 20 March | Ministerial and agency consultation in parallel |
| 21 March | Update paper following Ministerial and agency consultation Ministers approve paper for lodgement |
| 22 March | Late lodgement |
| 27 March | Cabinet ECO Committee |
| 2 April | Cabinet consideration |

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Agree** to provide feedback on the draft Cabinet paper (**Appendix One**) to officials on Monday 18 March.

YES / NO

- b) **Note** we intend to run agency and Ministerial consultation in parallel from Tuesday 19 to Wednesday 20 March.

NOTED

- c) **Note** the following timeframes which would support announcing the methane science and target review by 8 April 2024:

- i. 19 to 20 March: Ministerial and agency consultation;
- ii. 22 March: Late Cabinet paper lodgement;
- iii. 27 March: Economic Policy Committee; and
- iv. 2 April: Cabinet consideration.

NOTED

9(2)(a)



Julie Collins
Deputy Director-General
Policy & Trade
Ministry for Primary Industries

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Agriculture

/ / 2024



Sam Buckle
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency
Ministry for the Environment

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

/ / 2024

Appendix One: Draft Cabinet paper – Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review

This appendix is being refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the final cabinet paper will soon be made publicly available.