



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

For Ministerial Consultation - Initiating the Methane Science and Targets Review

Date	9 May 2024	Reference	Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) B24-0304
			Ministry for the Environment (MfE): BRF-4669

Decision required	Date decision required by
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	13 May 2024

Purpose

- This briefing:
 - seeks feedback on a draft Cabinet paper on initiating the Methane Science and Target Review (the Review) by 13 May 2024, prior to Ministerial consultation; and
 - informs you of the proposed approach to finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR) and panel membership for the Review.

Context


1. The draft Cabinet paper includes a draft ToR for the Review to be considered at the Cabinet Economic Committee (ECO) on 29 May 2024, and at Cabinet on 4 June 2024 (**Appendix One** Sub24-0051 - *Initiating the Methane Science and Target Review*).
2. Following this, the Cabinet Appointment and Honours (APH) Committee (on 18 June) and Cabinet (on 24 June) will consider the panel members and final ToR.

Process for determining baseline year in the draft ToR

3. We understand you are interested in including a baseline year in the ToR to be considered by the panel throughout the Review. Determining the baseline is a key consideration when assessing what a biogenic methane target ensuring no additional warming should be. The baseline year chosen is not solely a scientific concept but could have a significant impact on the final target advice.

4. To support this work, further analysis is needed on a range of baselines that could be used and the implications of these for the Review. Officials will provide you with this advice by 23 May to support finalisation of the ToR.

Proposed process for finalising the panel's membership and draft ToR

5. To date, the following steps have occurred to support progressing the panel membership and the draft ToR:
 - a) you approved a list of potential panel candidates;
 - b) your offices circulated a list of potential panel candidates and draft ToR with other Ministerial offices (as a result, minor changes have been made to the draft ToR and additional names were added to the list);
 - c) MfE officials have contacted the proposed panel candidates to test availability and interest in being part of the panel; and
 - d) MfE has shared the draft ToR with interested panel candidates,¹ after they had signed a confidentiality agreement, and as agreed by your Offices.
6. We propose you confirm your preferred shortlist of the panel candidates on the week of 27 May to support APH consideration on 18 June and Cabinet approval on 24 June. To support you in this process we propose to:
 - a) provide you with further advice alongside the APH Cabinet paper to support finalisation of the panel members. This will include advice on ensuring the panel has the right balance of skills and expertise to deliver on the ToR;
 - b) share the draft ToR again with shortlisted panel candidates after the ECO committee meeting, to support finalising the draft ToR; and
 - c) share the final draft of the APH paper with you, including the finalised ToR and chair and panel membership.
7. Along with the final list of panellists, we propose to also include two back up panellists in the APH paper, and a backup chairperson. This will help keep the Review's timing on track in case panel members need to be replaced at any point. We will seek APH and Cabinet approval that delegated Ministers can appoint the replacement panellists if needed at any point throughout the Review.
8. Panel remuneration will be through MfE and MPI departmental Financial Year 2024/25 funding.^{9(2)(g)(i)}


¹ Several candidates have indicated an interest in reviewing the draft ToR ahead of it being finalised. We support this approach given the technical nature of the ToR and the need to ensure the work is feasible and achievable within the period specified.

Feedback from agencies on the draft Cabinet paper

We received feedback from a number of agencies. Key feedback is outlined below

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- 10.
- 11.

Next steps

12. **Table One** below sets out the proposed steps to support commencing the Review by 30 June 2024:

Table One: Proposed steps to commence the Review by 30 June

Step 1: ECO and Cabinet approval to initiate the Review	
13 May	Provide feedback to officials on the Cabinet paper
14 to 20 May (5 days)	Ministerial consultation
22 May	Ministers approve ECO paper for lodgement
23 May	Lodge ECO paper
29 May	ECO consideration
4 June	Cabinet approval
Step 2: APH and Cabinet approval to appoint panel members	
23 May (Open)	Advice to Ministers on Baseline, finalising Panel and ToR
27 to 29 May	Final Ministers decision on panel member and confirmation of their participation
30 May	APH paper due with Ministers
6 to 12 June (5 days)	Ministerial consultation on APH paper
14 June	Lodge APH paper
18 June	APH consideration
24 June	Cabinet approval

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Agree** to provide feedback to officials on any changes to the attached draft Cabinet paper by 13 May, prior to Ministerial consultation from 14 May to 20 May.

YES / NO

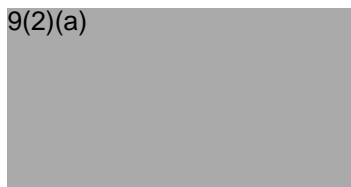
- b) **Note** to meet the 30 June 2024 to commence the Review, we propose aiming for the following timeframes:
- i. Cabinet Economic Committee consideration on 29 May and Cabinet consideration on 4 June on the attached draft Cabinet paper; and
 - ii. Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee consideration (18 June) and Cabinet's appointment (24 June) of the panel members.

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- c) **Note** officials will provide additional advice to you by 23 May and seek a follow-up joint meeting with you to support decisions on:
- i. determining a baseline for the Review;
 - ii. finalising the panel membership; and
 - iii. finalising the Terms of Reference, including incorporation of any feedback by panel members.

NOTED

9(2)(a)



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

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Agriculture

/ / 2024

Handwritten signature of Sam Buckle.

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

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

/ / 2024

Appendix One: Sub24-0051 - Cabinet paper – Initiating the Methane Science and Targets Review and Appendices

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