



**To:** Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change  
Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Agriculture

**CC:**

**From:** Hemi Smiler, General Manager, Climate Change Mitigation  
Tom Corser, Acting Director, Natural Resources Policy, Ministry for Primary Industries

**Date:**

## Memo: Proactive Release of Cabinet paper Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal

<b>Date</b>	23 May 2024	<b>Reference</b>	MfE: BRF-4710
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<b>Decision required</b>	<b>Date decision required by</b>
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	27 May 2024

### Purpose

1. This briefing seeks your approval to proactively release the Cabinet paper *Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal* [CAB-411] and the associated minute of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) [ECO-24-MIN-0042].

### Background

2. Cabinet has agreed that from 1 January 2019, Cabinet papers (excluding those considered by APH), and any attachments or appendices to those papers and associated minutes, must be released proactively and published online.
3. Proactive release requires the approval of the relevant portfolio Minister and must be done within 30 business days of final decisions being made by

Cabinet, unless there is good reason not to publish all or part of the material, or to delay the release beyond 30 business days.

4. In your role as Minister for Climate Change you have the authority to approve or delay the proactive release of Cabinet material within your portfolio, with joint papers requiring joint Ministerial agreement.

## **Methane Science and Target Review**

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### **Context**

5. The Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Primary Industries jointly produced the Cabinet paper Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal (the Cabinet paper) to support Ministers' intention to establish the Review.
6. The Cabinet paper:
  - 6.1. outlines the National-ACT coalition agreement's commitment to "review the methane science and target in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions"; and
  - 6.2. informs Cabinet of the intention of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Climate Change to initiate a Methane Science and Target Review and establish an independent ministerial advisory panel.
7. The Cabinet paper was considered by ECO on 27 March and Cabinet approved ECO's minute on 2 April [CAB-24-MIN-0109].

### **Risk Assessment**

8. The announcement of the proposed Methane Science and Target Review has generated public, sector and political interest. In particular, the purpose and cost of the review, and the process of selecting candidates for the review panel.
9. You have directed that the review be underpinned by the principles of transparency and credibility. Proactive release of the Cabinet paper supports this direction. The Cabinet paper contains information that will provide readers with context about the decision to commence a methane science and target review.
10. We recommend proactively releasing the Cabinet Paper *Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal* and Cabinet minute, with appropriate redactions (see **Appendix 1** for suggested redactions). We recommend withholding details relating to upcoming committee dates and decisions under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act (1982) as those matters are still under consideration (s9(2)(f)(iv)).

## Consultation and Collaboration

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11. We have consulted with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). MPI have endorsed proactively releasing this Cabinet paper and agree with the suggested redactions set out in Appendix 1.

## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **Approve** the attached marked up documents for proactive release

Yes | No | Discuss

- b. **Advise** if any additional redactions, or changes, are required before the papers are published on the Ministry for the Environment website

Yes | No | Discuss

<p>9(2)(a)</p>		<p>Hon Todd McClay Minister of Agriculture</p>
<p>Tom Corser, Acting Director, Natural Resources Policy, Ministry for Primary Industries</p>		
		<p>/ / 2024</p>
 <p>Hemi Smiler General Manager Climate Change Mitigation Ministry for the Environment</p>		<p>Hon Simon Watts Minister of Climate Change</p>
		<p>22 / 05 / 2024</p>

## Appendices

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Appendix One: Cabinet paper *Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review Proposal*

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