

Appendix 1 – MfE work programmes underpinned by environmental science and data

This table provides examples of science and data needed for MfE work programmes for each Ministerial portfolio.

Ministerial portfolio	Examples of science and data use in work programmes
Environment Responsible Minister: Hon Penny Simmonds Associate Minister: Hon Andrew Hoggard	Freshwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing and replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) will be supported by reviewing the science that links certain freshwater attributes (e.g., concentrations of different contaminants) to ecosystem health. In addition, policy decisions can be underpinned by economic and environmental modelling based on existing datasets to quantify the costs/benefits of any changes.
	Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review the NPS-IB to ensure that biodiversity is protected while removing red tape will be supported by enhancing datasets that can help identify and monitor legal protection, indigenous vegetation cover and key ecosystem attributes. Scaling up the biodiversity credit market to fund/incentivise landowners to protect biodiversity will be supported by data enhancements that can inform investment priorities and project baselining and tracking (e.g. ecosystem classification, condition indices, legal protection mapping, etc).
	Oceans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine resource allocation and management will be informed by various biodiversity mapping projects, improving cross-domain data consistency, understanding how climate change will impact oceans and marine resources and understanding how species will be affected by offshore wind farms. Progressing work to recognise blue carbon requires understanding its potential (current and with restoration) and its value for mitigating climate change.
	Waste/Hazardous chemicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing and amending waste legislation requires research and data on different waste material flows as well as regular waste composition and landfill gas capture data. Recycling and waste reduction initiatives requires research and data on current circular/reuse activities including opportunities for scaling and end markets.
Climate Change Responsible Minister: Hon Simon Watts	Inventories and Mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving modelling of climate policy impacts and emissions projections for the second emissions reduction plan and setting the second Nationally Determined Contribution.

<p>Associate Minister: Hon Nicola Willis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the accessibility of climate mitigation data and modelling through the Climate Data Initiative. • Progressing work to recognise blue carbon requires understanding its potential (current and with restoration) and its value for mitigating climate change. <p>Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of system wide natural hazard and climate adaptation data and information to underpin actions in the National Adaptation Plan, adaptation policy and natural hazard policy. • Update downscaled climate projections for New Zealand to be used for climate change assessments across the private and public sector agencies and organisations.
<p>Resource Management Act (RMA) reform</p> <p>Responsible Minister: Hon Chris Bishop</p> <p>Parliamentary Under-Secretary: Hon Simon Court</p>	<p>Policy development for replacement RMA legislation will be reliant on a robust evidence base including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collating and assessing science and data to inform how we might monitor the environment effectively for policy decisions (e.g. selecting environmental characteristics that represent wider environmental health with less monitoring effort). • Identifying potential environmental limits and reviewing effectiveness, including relevant science context to ensure they are practical and feasible (e.g. factoring in regional differences). • Applying long-term environmental data to inform decisions and trade-offs (e.g. between adaptation and urban development) in the long- and short-term.