



Aide Memoire

To: Hon Tim Groser, Minister for Climate Change Issues **File ref:** 12-B-00492
CC: Hon Simon Bridges, Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues
From: Stuart Calman, Director Climate and Risk; Jo Tyndall, Ambassador for Climate Change
Date: 23 April 2012
Re: Draft paper and upcoming process for STR meeting on climate change

Purpose

You are meeting Associate Minister Simon Bridges and officials at 1:00pm, Tuesday 24 April to discuss a draft A3 for Cabinet Strategy Committee (STR) meeting scheduled for 7 May 2012. This note outlines the approach taken in the draft A3, reflecting your recent feedback, and indicates the key dates leading up to STR.

We seek your feedback on the attached draft A3, and your indication of any supplementary information that would be useful to support the STR discussion and / or a possible meeting with a small group of Ministers prior to STR.

Background

STR will be discussing climate change issues on 7 May 2012, following an EGI invitation for the Minister for Climate Change Issues to submit an item on "the overall strategic direction and policy priorities of the government in relation to New Zealand's post-2012 mitigation commitments and any related changes to the ETS".

In addition to the final A3, we will provide you with a covering brief containing supplementary supporting information and details of the key technical assumptions underpinning calculations.

You may wish to indicate to officials any other information that would be useful to support either the STR discussion and/or a pre-meeting with a smaller group of Ministers.

Consultation, process and next steps

In developing the A3, MfE and MFAT officials have worked closely with Treasury and MAF and continue to refine advice on projections and costs. The document currently presents a working hypothesis as an example to aid discussion, contrasting a minimum unilateral target to the status quo of our conditional target range.

Discussions to date indicate that Treasury officials will provide advice to their Minister on multiple policy options in relation to our post-2012 mitigation commitment, including not taking decisions at his time and replacing our conditional target range with a minimum target. The attached A3 incorporates the strategic considerations that are relevant to a range of options while presenting information at a high level.

Your final submission for STR is scheduled to be lodged 10:00am Thursday 3 May. Working backward from this date, a number of steps are required:

Date (2012)	Activity
Tues 24 April	Meeting with officials to discuss attached draft
	Submit STR paper to Officials committee
Fri 27 April	Officials STR meeting (1:30pm)
Tues 1 May	Opportunity to discuss STR paper with small group of Ministers
Wed 2 May	Last day for officials to provide final A3 for your sign-out
Thurs 3 May	Lodge STR paper with Cabinet
Mon 7 May	Cabinet Strategy Committee Meeting

Changes to the A3 may be made in response to your feedback to officials, and the Officials committee meeting, on 24 April. You can expect the final A3 and covering brief for your approval on Monday 30 April.

You may wish to engage with a small group of Ministers prior to the STR session. If so, please indicate what additional information you would find useful for discussions with your colleagues.

Stuart Calman
Director, Climate and Risk Directorate
Ministry for the Environment

Date