



## PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Ministers</b>	Hon Simon Watts Hon Todd McClay	<b>Portfolio</b>	Climate Change Agriculture
<b>Name of package</b>	Methane Science and Targets Review	<b>Date to be published</b>	

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
21 March 2024	Briefing: BRF-4449/Sub24-0037 – Approval to lodge: Announcing the methane science and target review	Ministry for the Environment & Ministry for Primary Industries
21 March 2024	Cabinet Paper: Announcing the methane science and target review	Ministry for the Environment & Ministry for Primary Industries
27 March 2024	ECO-24-MIN-0042 – Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
2 April 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0109 – Cabinet Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
23 May 2024	Briefing: Approval to lodge: Initiating the methane science and target review	Ministry for the Environment & Ministry for Primary Industries
23 May 2024	Cabinet Paper: Initiating the methane science and target review	Ministry for the Environment & Ministry for Primary Industries
29 May 2024	ECO-24-MIN-0096 – Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
4 June 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0195 – Cabinet Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
13 June 2024	Cabinet Paper: Methane Science and Target Review Panel: Appointment	Ministry for the Environment & Ministry for Primary Industries
18 June 2024	APH-24-MIN-0111 – Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
21 June 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0215 – Cabinet Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office

**Information redacted****YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with the Ministry for the Environment's policy on proactive release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

**Summary of reasons for redaction**

Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

Out of scope



Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



**To:** Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change  
**From:** Charlotte Denny, Director – Natural Resources Policy, Policy & Trade  
Stephen Goodman, Acting General Manager – Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency

## Approval to lodge: Announcing the methane science and target review

<b>Date</b>	21 March 2024	<b>Reference</b>	MPI: Sub24-0037
			MfE: BRF-4449

<b>Decision required</b>	<b>Date decision required by</b>
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	22 March 2024

### Purpose

- This briefing seeks your approval to lodge an updated draft Cabinet paper, ‘Announcing the methane science and target review’, on 22 March to ensure consideration at Economic Policy (ECO) Committee on 27 March, followed by Cabinet consideration on 2 April.

### Key updates to the Cabinet paper

#### No Ministerial feedback received

- On 19 to 20 March, you consulted with Ministers on a draft Cabinet paper to support announcing the methane science and target review before 8 April 2024.
- We understand no feedback was received from Ministerial consultation.

#### Summary of agency feedback

- Parallel to the above Ministerial consultation period the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment consulted with relevant agencies on the draft Cabinet paper.

4. The following feedback from agency consultation has been included in tracked changes for your consideration in the updated draft Cabinet paper (**Appendix One**):

a) 9(2)(g)(i)

b) 9(2)(g)(i)

c) We have also made some minor suggested editorial changes at paragraphs 5 and 17.

## Recommendations

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5. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Agree** to lodge the Cabinet paper (**Appendix One**) by Friday 22 March for consideration at ECO Committee on 27 March, followed by Cabinet on 2 April.

YES / NO

9(2)(a)



Charlotte Denny  
Director – Natural Resources Policy  
Policy & Trade

Hon Todd McClay  
Minister of Agriculture

/ / 2024

9(2)(a)



Stephen Goodman  
Acting General Manager – Climate Change Mitigation  
Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Climate Change

/ / 2024

**Appendix One: Cabinet paper to lodge – Announcing the methane science and targets**

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Agriculture  
Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## **Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review**

### **Proposal**

- 1 We propose to publicly announce a review of the methane science and biogenic methane target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions.

### **Relation to Government priorities**

- 2 This supports the National - ACT coalition agreement commitment to “maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and targets in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”.

### **Background**

- 3 In 2019, the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA) was amended to set New Zealand’s domestic climate change targets for 2050. These targets are split by greenhouse gas type, with a separate target for biogenic methane<sup>1</sup> reduction and a net zero goal for all other greenhouse gases.
- 4 The legislated target requires that “emissions of biogenic methane in a calendar year” are:
  - 4.1 ten percent less than 2017 emissions by the year beginning 1 January 2030; and
  - 4.2 24 to 47 percent less than 2017 emissions by the calendar year on 1 January 2050 and for each subsequent year.<sup>2</sup>
- 5 This year the Climate Change Commission (the Commission) is undertaking a review of the 2050 targets (including biogenic methane targets as required by the CCRA).
- 6 The Commission will:
  - 6.1 launch public consultation on its review of the 2050 target on 8 April 2024; and
  - 6.2 provide its final advice to the Minister of Climate Change by 31 December 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the CCRA, biogenic methane is defined as all methane greenhouse gases produced from the agriculture and waste sectors (as reported in the New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory). The agriculture sector produces approximately 91 percent of gross annual biogenic methane emissions in New Zealand. The remaining 9 percent is from the waste sector.

<sup>2</sup> The 2050 target was set to reflect the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s special report which found that in scenarios limiting warming to 1.5 degrees with limited or no overshoot, the central range of reductions in global agricultural methane emissions is 24-47 percent below 2010 levels. A range was set, to reflect the uncertainty on actual reduction required from a short-lived gas to meet the 1.5 degrees temperature goal.

## CLASSIFICATION

- 7 Due to the Commission's independence, we do not know to what extent no-additional warming and review of the methane science will feature in its draft advice. The CCRA also requires that the Commission can only recommend a change to the 2050 target if a significant change has occurred, or is likely to occur, in particular areas that relate to climate change for example global action.<sup>3</sup>
- 8 This is why it is important that we initiate an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming. Our trade partners, the international community and New Zealanders expect the agriculture sector to contribute to our climate change targets. However, we need to ensure that:
  - 8.1 the agriculture sector's contribution to our climate change targets is fair and appropriate compared to other parts of the economy; and
  - 8.2 any domestic efforts to bring down emissions support our farmers to continue to lead in producing carbon-efficient products and does not lead to higher emissions in other parts of the world.
- 9 The Government will need to respond to the Commission's review of the 2050 target next year. This review we are undertaking will inform that response.
- 10 The biogenic methane targets are part of a series of interrelated emissions budgets and targets. Any future decisions on the biogenic methane components of the 2050 target are likely to have implications for the wider economy and broader Ministerial portfolios.

### Analysis

- 11 We have been clear in our commitment to maintain a split-gas approach to our domestic climate change targets, and to review the methane science and targets for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions.
- 12 To do this, we intend to undertake a Methane Science and Target Review (Review) and establish an independent Ministerial advisory panel (Panel) to:
  - 12.1 review the methane science; and
  - 12.2 provide evidence-based advice on what our domestic 2050 methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.
- 13 We propose to undertake a two-step process for announcing the Review and establishing the Panel:
  - 13.1 By 8 April 2024: Publicly announce the Review will be undertaken, and that a Panel will be established; and
  - 13.2 May 2024: Seek Cabinet's approval to initiate the Review and establish the Panel – this will include a clear scope of the Review, the terms of reference, appointees and any other relevant considerations.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 5T(2)(a) of the CCRA lists the following areas that would require significant change in order for the Commission to recommend a change to the target: (i) Global action; (ii) scientific understanding of climate change; (iii) New Zealand's economic or fiscal circumstances; (iv) New Zealand's obligations under relevant international agreements; (v) technological developments; (vi) distributional impacts; (vii) equity implications (including generational equity); (viii) the principal risks and uncertainties associated with emissions reductions and removals; (ix) social, cultural, environmental, and ecological circumstances.

- 14 We intend to publicly announce the Review by 8 April to align with the release of the Commission’s public consultation on its draft advice noted in paragraph 5. Doing this will reiterate to the public and stakeholders that the Government is following through on our commitment to conduct an independent review of our biogenic methane targets for consistency with no additional warming.
- 15 Initiating the Review will also help us build a stronger common understanding on an up-to-date view of the methane science. This is an integral step to building the foundation for reviewing our biogenic methane target. It is therefore important that the Review is independent, has a robust process and has credible members on the Panel to provide confidence in the outputs.
- 16 Following our announcement of the Review, the next steps for approving the initiation of the Review and establishing the Panel are outlined below:

Activity	Timeframe
ECO Cabinet Committee and Cabinet consideration of Methane Science and Targets Review terms of reference and establishment of Panel	May 2024
APH and Cabinet approval of Panel members	May 2024
Initiate the Review	Q2 2024
Expected completion of the Review, including a current view of the methane science and advice on a methane reduction target/s in line with no additional warming.	Q3 2024

**Cost-of-living, Financial, Population, Legislative, Implications and Human Rights**

- 17 We are not proposing any policy changes. Cost-of-living, financial, population, legislative implications and Human Rights can be assessed as part of any future policy work following the Panel’s findings.
- 18 Any future decisions on amending the biogenic methane target will likely require amendments to the CCRA (and interrelated emissions budgets and targets) and will have implications for the wider economy and broader Ministerial portfolios.

**Impact Analysis**

- 19 We are not proposing any policy changes. A Regulatory Impact Statement and Climate Implications of Policy Assessment will need to be undertaken as part of any future policy work following the Panel’s findings.

**Use of external Resources**

- 20 No external resources were used in developing this proposal.

**Consultation**

- 21 The following agencies were briefly consulted on the Cabinet paper - Te Arawhiti, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Te Puni Kōkiri, The Treasury,

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Transport, Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### **Communications**

- 22 We propose to publicly announce this Review by 8 April 2024. The decision will be announced via a joint Ministerial media release.
- 23 We will likely need to manage communications around our intentions of this review process when the announcement is made. We will ensure appropriate communications are provided to manage this risk, including risks to priority relationships and foreign and trade policy objectives.
- 24 The Review's terms of reference will need to ensure the process is transparent and accessible given the high public interest in this topic.

### **Proactive Release**

- 25 Following Cabinet's consideration, we will consider the release of this paper on the Ministry for Primary Industries website in whole or in part, subject to appropriate redactions under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change recommend that the Committee:

- 1 **Note** the National - ACT coalition agreement includes a commitment to “*Maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and targets in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions*”.
- 2 **Note** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change propose to undertake a Methane Science and Target Review (Review) and establish an independent Ministerial advisory panel (Panel) to:
  - 2.1 review the methane science; and
  - 2.2 provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.
- 3 **Note** the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change will progress a two-step process for announcing the Review, and then establishing the Panel and initiating the Review:
  - 3.1 by 8 April 2024: Publicly announce the Review will be progressed, and an independent Panel will be established; and
  - 3.2 May 2024: Seek Cabinet’s approval to initiate the Review and establish the Panel – this will include a clear scope of the Review, the terms of reference, appointees and any other relevant considerations.
- 4 **Note** that as the biogenic methane targets are part of a series of interrelated emissions budgets and targets, any future decisions on the biogenic methane components of the 2050 target are likely to have implications for the wider economy and broader Ministerial portfolios.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay  
Minister of Agriculture

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Climate Change



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review

**Portfolios**                      **Agriculture / Climate Change**

On 27 March 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the National-ACT coalition agreement includes a commitment to “Maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and targets in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”;
- 2        **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change (the Ministers) intend to undertake a Methane Science and Target Review (the Review) and establish an independent ministerial advisory panel (the Panel) to:
  - 2.1      review the methane science;
  - 2.2      provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane;
- 3        **noted** that the Ministers will progress a two-step process for the Review:
  - 3.1      by 8 April 2024, along with their Associate Ministers, publicly announce that the Review will be progressed and that the Panel will be established;
  - 3.2      in May 2024, seek Cabinet’s approval to initiate the Review and establish the Panel, which will include a clear scope of the Review, the terms of reference, appointees and any other relevant considerations;
- 4        **noted** that as the biogenic methane targets are part of a series of interrelated emissions budgets and targets, any future decisions on the biogenic methane components of the 2050 target are likely to have implications for the wider economy and broader ministerial portfolios.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendance: (see over)**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Judith Collins  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for ECO



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 29 March 2024

On 2 April 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 29 March 2024:

Out of scope



ECO-24-MIN-0042

**Announcing the Methane Science and Target Review**


CONFIRMED

Portfolios: Agriculture / Climate Change

Out of scope



Out of scope



Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet



**To:** Hon Todd McClay, Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change  
**From:** Charlotte Denny, Director – Natural Resources Policy, Policy & Trade  
Hemi Smiler, General Manager – Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency

## Approval to lodge: Initiating the methane science and target review

<b>Date</b>	23 May 2024	<b>Reference</b>	MPI: Sub24-0051
			MfE: BRF 4812

<b>Decision required</b>	<b>Date decision required by</b>
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	23 March 2024

### Purpose

- This briefing seeks your approval to lodge an updated draft Cabinet paper, '*Initiating the methane science and target review*', on 23 May to ensure consideration at Economic Policy (ECO) Committee on 29 May, followed by Cabinet consideration on 4 June.

### Key updates to the Cabinet paper

- On 14 to 22 May, you consulted with Ministers on a draft Cabinet paper to support initiating the Methane Science and Target Review by 30 June.
- The following feedback from Ministerial consultation has been included in tracked changes for your consideration in the updated draft Cabinet paper (at **Appendix One**):
  - Paragraphs 13 and 14** detail the process for determining a baseline for the panel to consider throughout the review. This paragraph proposes that you both, along with Associate Agriculture and Climate Change Minister are given delegated authority to finalise the ToR ahead of APH in June.
  - Recommendation 6** – We added Associate Agriculture and Climate Change Ministers to the group of delegated Ministers who will confirm the ToR ahead of APH (as above).

9(2)(g)(i)

## Next steps

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3. Following lodgement of this Cabinet paper on Thursday 23 May, the table below sets out steps to support commencing the Review before 30 June 2024:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Step</b>
29 May	ECO consideration of attached Cabinet paper
30 May	Joint Ministers meeting on panel selection
4 June	Cabinet approval of attached Cabinet paper
30 May	Joint meeting (MoA and MCC)
31 May	APH Cabinet paper due with Ministers
6 – 12 June ( <i>5 days</i> )	Ministerial consultation on APH paper
14 June	Lodge APH paper
18 June	APH consideration
24 June	Cabinet approval

## Recommendations

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4. It is recommended that you:

- a) **Agree** to lodge the Cabinet paper (**Appendix One**) by Thursday 23 May for consideration at ECO Committee on 29 May, followed by Cabinet on 4 June.

YES / NO

9(2)(a)



Charlotte Denny  
Director – Natural Resources Policy  
Policy & Trade

Hon Todd McClay  
Minister of Agriculture

/ / 2024

9(2)(a)



Hemi Smiler  
General Manager – Climate Change Mitigation  
Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Efficiency

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Climate Change

/ / 2024

**Appendix One: Cabinet paper to lodge – Initiating the methane science and targets review**

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# CLASSIFICATION

## In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Climate Change  
Office of the Minister of Agriculture

Chair, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Initiating the Methane Science and Target Review

### Proposal

- 1 We propose to initiate a review of the methane science and biogenic methane target for no additional warming.

### Relation to Government priorities

- 2 Our proposal supports:
  - 2.1. the New Zealand National Party and ACT New Zealand coalition agreement commitment to “maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and target in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”; and
  - 2.2. Action 13 of the Coalition Government’s Action Plan for New Zealand from 1 April to 30 June 2024 to “Commence an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”.

### Background

- 3 On 2 April 2024, we informed Cabinet of our approach to undertake a review of New Zealand’s 2050 biogenic methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming (the Review), including advice on what the target should be to ensure no additional warming for biogenic methane [CAB-24-MIN-0109 refers]<sup>1</sup>.
- 4 We also informed Cabinet that the Review will be conducted by an independent Panel (the Panel) who will:
  - 4.1. review the methane science; and
  - 4.2. provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA) was amended to set New Zealand’s domestic climate change target for 2050. New Zealand has a separate target for biogenic methane, which includes:

- a) ten percent less than 2017 emissions by the year beginning 1 January 2030; and
- b) 24 to 47 percent less than 2017 emissions by the calendar year on 1 January 2050 and for each subsequent year.

## CLASSIFICATION

- 5 On 8 April 2024, the Climate Change Commission (The Commission) commenced public consultation on their first review of the 2050 emissions target. The Commission aims to provide the Government with final advice by 31 December 2024. The Government will need to respond to the Commission's review within 12 months.
- 6 While the Review will focus on the science of the warming effects of methane, it will help us to make informed future decisions on agriculture climate change policy that meet our objectives. Our objectives include to:
  - 6.1. provide clear direction to the agriculture sector and certainty on the agriculture sector's role in meeting our 2050 climate change targets, particularly as our current 2050 biogenic methane target provides less certainty due to its wide range;
  - 6.2. ensure that the agriculture sector's contribution to our climate change target is fair and appropriate compared to other parts of the economy; and
  - 6.3. ensure that any domestic efforts to reduce emissions support our farmers to continue to lead in producing emissions-efficient products and does not lead to higher emissions in other parts of the world.
- 7 The biogenic methane target is part of a series of interrelated emissions budgets and targets<sup>2</sup>. This includes Target 9 of the Government's Targets to be delivered by 2030 – reduced net greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>3</sup> Any future decisions on the biogenic methane components of the 2050 target are likely to have implications for the wider economy and other Ministerial portfolios.

### Analysis

#### *Terms of Reference for the Review and selection of the Panel*

- 8 We seek agreement to the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) (**Appendix One**) that includes details on the Review's scope, context, working approach and operational requirements for the Panel.
- 9 The Panel will provide a report to Ministers that summarises the most up-to-date science regarding methane and its warming impact. It will be tailored to recognise New Zealand's methane emissions profile. It will provide additional information that can support our response to the Climate Change Commission's recommendations. The Report will be shared publicly.
- 10 A Panel of three to five scientific experts in relevant fields, with an independent chair, will be set up to carry out the review between July and November 2024. The Panel will consult the existing literature and engage with experts and interested parties as part of their process.

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<sup>2</sup> New Zealand's emissions budgets and its international target under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contribution - NDC) are all gas/all sector targets. Reducing the contribution from a particular greenhouse gas from one sector would require an increase in emissions reductions in other sectors to meet the NDC.

<sup>3</sup> Target 9 of the Government's targets to be delivered by 2030 is based on emissions budgets 1 and 2, which were set as stepping stones to the 2050 target.

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- 11 The Panel will not make any conclusions or recommendations that go beyond performing the scientific review and providing the evidence-base on what a target should be to ensure no additional warming. For example, the report will not cover advice on what the implications of a biogenic methane target consistent with no additional warming would be on New Zealand's broader climate policies and other domestic targets and budgets.
- 12 We propose to seek further feedback from short-listed candidates on the ToR following this paper.<sup>4</sup> This will allow them to provide input on the ToR before they undertake the Review.
- 13 The draft ToR does not identify a baseline year from which the government seeks to achieve a state of no additional warming from biogenic methane. A baseline year is necessary for the Panel to calculate the level of emissions reductions required to achieve a state of "no additional warming".
- 14 We propose that we (the Ministers of Climate Change and Agriculture), alongside our Associate Climate Change and Agriculture Ministers, have delegated authority to finalise the ToR, including the baseline year for no additional warming target. This will follow feedback from short-listed candidates, in consultation with relevant Ministers. We will ensure that the ToR are finalised by 24 June.
- 15 We propose that the Panel members and chair are considered by the Cabinet Appointment and Honours (APH) Committee on 18 June and approved by Cabinet on 24 June. We have outlined the nomination and appointment process we have undertaken to date for the Panel members and chair in Appendix Two.

### *Relationship to the Climate Change Commission's advice and other government policy*

- 16 Determining an appropriate domestic target for New Zealand is not solely a question of science but a judgement for the Government based on a range of considerations including equity, responsibility, cost, and economy wide opportunities for emissions reductions.
- 17 Following the Review, and after the Commission provides its final recommendations to the Government, officials will provide advice on the findings of both processes, including the full set of considerations relevant to setting domestic targets.<sup>5</sup>

### *International considerations*

- 18 At COP28 countries recognised that global efforts to tackle climate change are not on track to limit warming to the 1.5-degree target in the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>4</sup> Note, interested Panel Candidates have signed a confidentiality agreement prior to receiving information on the Review. Candidates received a draft copy of the ToR as part of the selection process.

<sup>5</sup> For example, what is a fair and appropriate contribution of the agriculture sector towards New Zealand's climate efforts.

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Fellow signatories to the Global Methane Pledge<sup>6</sup> are likely to pay close attention to any changes to New Zealand's biogenic methane target.

### Cost-of-living, Population and Human Rights Implications

- 19 We are not proposing any policy changes. Cost-of-living, population and Human Rights implications can be assessed as part of any future policy work following the Panel's findings.

### Legislative implications

- 20 Any future decisions on amending the biogenic methane target would require amendments to the CCRA (and interrelated emissions budgets and targets, including Target 9) and will have implications for the wider economy and broader Ministerial portfolios.

### Financial Implications

- 20 No new funding will be sought for the Review Panel. Panel remuneration will be through the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) departmental Financial Year 24/25 funding. Work by the Panel will be undertaken remotely with minimal additional expenses, such as travel and accommodation, forecast. Panel secretariat support will be provided by existing agency resources.

### Impact Analysis

- 21 We are not proposing any policy changes. A Regulatory Impact Statement and Climate Implications of Policy Assessment will need to be undertaken as part of any future policy work following the Panel's findings, as required.

### Use of external resources

- 22 No external resources have been used to support work to begin the Review and establishing a Panel.

### Consultation

- 23 The following agencies were consulted on the Cabinet paper – Office for Māori Crown Relations - Te Arawhiti, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Te Puni Kōkiri, The Treasury, Ministry of Transport, Public Service Commission, the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### Communications

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<sup>6</sup> This United States of America and European Union-led initiative has 155 signatories including New Zealand. Participants joining the Pledge agree to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emissions at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030. This is a global, not a national, reduction target.

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- 24 We propose to announce the commencement of the Review, alongside Associate Agriculture Ministers, following APH approval of the Panel Members. We expect this announcement will happen before 30 June 2024.

### **Proactive Release**

- 25 Following Cabinet's consideration, we will consider the release of this paper on the MfE website subject to appropriate redactions under the Official Information Act 1982.

# CLASSIFICATION

## Recommendations

The Minister of Climate Change and Minister of Agriculture recommend that the Committee:

1. **Note** that on 2 April, the Ministers of Agriculture and Climate Change informed Cabinet of their approach to undertake a methane science and target review (the Review) and establish an independent Review Panel (the Panel) to [CAB-24-MIN-0109 refers]:
  - 1.1 review the methane science; and
  - 1.2 provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.
2. **Note** that Action 13 of the Government's Action Plan for New Zealand from 1 April to 30 June commits to "commence an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions".
3. **Agree** to the draft Terms of Reference (**Appendix One**), which details the scope, context, working approach, and operational requirements of the Panel.
4. **Note** the short listed candidates will provide further feedback on the Terms of Reference.
5. **Note** officials will provide advice on the baseline to inform the final Terms of Reference.
6. **Agree** that the Ministers of Climate Change and Agriculture, and the Associate Agriculture and Climate Change Ministers, have delegated authority to finalise the terms of reference, including the baseline year (not inconsistent with prior Cabinet decisions and in consultation with relevant Ministers) following any feedback from short-listed candidates, by no later than 24 June.
5. **Note** the Minister of Climate Change and the Minister of Agriculture are currently engaging with Ministerial colleagues on the list of Panel candidates.
6. **Note** that, following Ministerial consultation, the Minister of Climate Change and the Minister of Agriculture will seek approval of the Panel membership from the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee on the 18 June and by Cabinet on the 24 June 2024.
7. **Agree** that this Review will commence from 30 June 2024.

[Authorised for Lodgement]

Hon Todd McClay  
Minister of Agriculture

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Climate Change

CLASSIFICATION











## Appendix Two: Appointment process for the potential Panel members

- 1 Given the scope and output we seek from the Panel throughout the Review, we have determined the Panel should be made up of three to five Panel members including a chair.
- 2 To support a robust and independent process, officials identified individuals from New Zealand and overseas that would support a range of the following expertise and knowledge:
  - a) climate science – including climate modelling and the warming impact of short and long-lived greenhouse gases;
  - b) New Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions, particularly biogenic methane from the agricultural sector;
  - c) understanding of New Zealand’s climate change targets and budgets under the Climate Change Response Act.
- 3 Officials then narrowed down the potential candidates based on the following selection criteria:
  - a) knowledge – qualification, technical/policy knowledge and sector knowledge/context;
  - b) skills / capabilities – credibility and experience within the science, strategic/cultural/mātauranga Māori perspective; and
  - c) expertise – networks and affiliations, and contribution to science panels and/or papers.
- 4 The list of potential candidates was then approved by Ministers for contact by officials to determine expressions of interest and availability.
- 5 Coalition partners and other relevant Ministers were consulted on the list of candidates as per the National, ACT and New Zealand First Coalition Government: Consultation and Operating Arrangements.
- 6 To assist with the management of the Panel, we will also propose including an independent chair with governance experience and the ability to ensure balanced views are brought forward from across the Panellists.
- 7 The final Panel membership and chair will be decided by Ministers and confirmed at the Cabinet Appointments and Honour Committee before 30 June 2024.



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Initiating the Methane Science and Target Review

**Portfolios**                      **Agriculture / Climate Change**

On 29 May 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1        **noted** that in April 2024, ECO noted the Minister of Agriculture’s and Minister of Climate Change’s intention to undertake a methane science and target review (the Review) and establish an independent Review Panel (the Panel) to:
  - 1.1      review the methane science;
  - 1.2      provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane;

[ECO-24-MIN-0042]
- 2        **noted** that Action 13 of the Government’s Action Plan for New Zealand (1 April to 30 June 2024) commits to ‘commence an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions’;
- 3        **agreed** to the draft Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix One under ECO-24-SUB-0096, which details the scope, context, working approach, and operational requirements of the Panel;
- 4        **noted** that candidates short-listed for Panel membership will provide further feedback on the Terms of Reference;
- 5        **noted** that officials will provide advice on the baseline to inform the final Terms of Reference;
- 6        **authorised** the Ministers of Climate Change and Agriculture, and the Associate Ministers of Agriculture and Climate Change to finalise the Terms of Reference, including the baseline year (not inconsistent with prior Cabinet decisions and in consultation with relevant Ministers) following any feedback from short-listed candidates, by 24 June 2024;
- 7        **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change are currently engaging with Ministerial colleagues on the list of Panel candidates;

- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Climate Change intend to report back to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee by 18 June 2024 with their proposed Panel candidates;
- 9 **agreed** that the Review will commence on 30 June 2024.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Bayly  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of Hon Simon Watts  
Officials Committee for ECO



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 31 May 2024

On 4 June 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 31 May 2024:

Out of scope



ECO-24-MIN-0096


**Initiating the Methane Science and Target Review**  
Portfolios: Agriculture / Climate Change

CONFIRMED

Out of scope



Out of scope



Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

# CLASSIFICATION

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Office of the Minister of Agriculture

Chair, Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

## Methane Science and Target Review Panel: Appointment

### Proposal

- 1 This paper notes our intention to make 4 member appointments and 1 chair appointment to the Methane Science and Target Review Panel, as below:

Name	Designation	Appointment/Reappointment	Term
Professor Nicola Shadbolt	Chair	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Professor David Frame	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Dr Laura Revell	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Dr Sara Mikaloff-Fletcher	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Professor William (Bill) Collins	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024

- 2 Our proposal supports:

- 2.1. the New Zealand National Party and ACT New Zealand coalition agreement commitment to “maintain a split-gas approach to methane and carbon dioxide through to 2050 and review the methane science and target in 2024 for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”; and
- 2.2. Action 13 of the Coalition Government’s Action Plan for New Zealand from 1 April to 30 June 2024 to “Commence an independent review of the methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions”.

### Background

- 3 On 2 April 2024, we informed Cabinet of our approach to undertake a review of New Zealand’s 2050 biogenic methane science and target for consistency with no additional warming (the Review), including advice on what the target should be to ensure no additional warming for biogenic methane [CAB-24-MIN-0109 refers].

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# CLASSIFICATION

- 4 We also informed Cabinet that the Review will be conducted by an independent Panel (the Panel) who will:
  - 4.1. review the methane science; and
  - 4.2. provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from biogenic methane.
- 5 On 4 June, Cabinet noted that the Minister of Climate Change and the Minister of Agriculture intend to report back to the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee. Cabinet also agreed that the Review will commence on 30 June [ECO-24-MIN-0096 refers].

## Panel Appointment

- 6 We intend to appoint the following Chair and four members to the Methane Science and Target Review Panel:

- a) Chair – Professor Nicola Mary Shadbolt, 9(2)(a)  
[Redacted]

- b) Professor David John Frame, 9(2)(a) [Redacted]

- c) Dr Sara Mikaloff-Fletcher, 9(2)(a)  
[Redacted]

# CLASSIFICATION

9(2)(a)

d) Dr Laura Revell, 9(2)(a)

e) Professor William (Bill) Collins, 9(2)(a)

## Representativeness of Appointment

- 7 We are satisfied that the Methane Science and Target Review Panel is balanced in terms of gender, and scientific expertisen, and has an appropriate mix of skills and experience to undertake this specific review.
- 8 Due to the technical and specialised nature of the Review, we did not seek nominations from (Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, and Ministry of Disabled Peoples).

## Remuneration

- 9 The Methane Science and Target Review Panel is classified as a Group 4 level 1 body under the Cabinet Fees Framework. Members are paid 9(2)(a) and the chair is paid 9(2)(a) (based on an 8-hour workday).

## Appointment Process

- 10 The appointment process included the following elements:
  - 10.1. Officials from MfE and MPI nominated individuals with suitable backgrounds in climate science, greenhouse gas emissions, and targets and budgets. Nominations were sought from Ministers and coalition partners.
  - 10.2. The longlist of individuals was assessed according to knowledge, skills & capabilities, and expertise to determine a shortlist.

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- 10.3. Following consultation with Ministers, the shortlisted individuals were contacted and screened for expressions of interest and availability, as well as to determine any conflicts of interest.
- 10.4. A skills matrix was established to assess the shortlists' potential contributions to the panel and to establish diversity considerations.
- 10.5. Ministers finalised the panel composition and candidates were notified.
- 10.6. Comprehensive background checks were performed based on the Public Service Commission guidelines.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

- 11 We can confirm that appropriate enquires concerning conflicts of interest have been carried out in accordance with the Public Service Commission appointment guidelines, to identify any conflict of interest that could reasonably be identified.
- 12 Two candidates recommended for appointment have identified, actual, likely or perceived conflicts of interest. Proposals for conflict management are identified in the candidate C.V. forms.

### **Communications**

- 13 We propose to jointly announce the commencement of the Review on 25 June.
- 14 A press statement will be issued once the appointment of the five members of the Panel have been confirmed and accepted by the candidates. The statement will cover the terms of reference and confirm panel members, possibly with a high-level reference to their qualifications and experience. Panel members will receive the draft materials as an FYI.

### **Recommendation**

- 1 The Minister of Climate Change and Minister of Agriculture recommend that the Committee:
  - 1.1. Note the intention to make the following appointments to the Methane Science and Target Panel:

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Name	Designation	Appointment/ Reappointment	Term
Professor Nicola Shadbolt	Chair	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Professor David Frame	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Dr Laura Revell	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Dr Sara Mikaloff-Fletcher	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
Professor William (Bill) Collins	Member	Appointment	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

**Minister of Climate Change**

Hon Todd McClay

**Minister of Agriculture**

CLASSIFICATION

**CLASSIFICATION**

# APH Organisation Form

All sections must be completed.

## Organisation and Responsible Portfolio

**Methane Science and Target Review Panel**  
(Climate Change and Agriculture)

### Brief Outline of the Functions and Responsibilities of the Methane Science and Target Review Panel

The Methane Science and Target Review was established to support the National Party and ACT New Zealand coalition agreement commitment. It is an independent Ministerial Advisory Panel that will review methane science and provide evidence-based advice on what the 2050 biogenic methane target should be to ensure no additional warming from agriculture.

### Current Membership

Name	Gender Identity	Region	Ethnicities (and Iwi if applicable)	Date of appointment	Expiry date of term
Professor Nicola Shadbolt	9(2)(a)			30 June 2024	30 November 2024
Professor David Frame				30 June 2024	30 November 2024
Dr Laura Revell				30 June 2024	30 November 2024
Dr Sara Mikaloff-Fletcher				30 June 2024	30 November 2024
Professor William (Bill) Collins				30 June 2024	30 November 2024

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Candidate CV Form**

<b>Name</b>	Professor Nicola Mary SHADBOLT ONZM
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**The Position**

<b>Organisation/Entity</b>	Methane Science and Target Review Panel
<b>Position</b>	Chair
<b>Term</b>	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
<b>Payment</b>	9(2)(a)

**How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position**

<b>Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Possible conflicts of interest</b>	
<b>Proposals for conflict management</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

**The Candidate**

<b>Name</b>	Professor Nicola Mary SHADBOLT ONZM
<b>Address</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Ethnicity(s)</b>	
<b>Age range</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Current or most recent Employment</b>	
<b>Government board appointments held</b>	
<b>Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

	9(2)(a)
<b>Qualifications and experience</b>	

Date: 12 June 2024

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Candidate CV Form**

Sections with \* must be completed.

This form should be completed by, or in consultation with, the candidate where possible.

<b>Name</b>	Professor David John FRAME
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**The Position**

<b>Organisation/Entity</b>	Methane Science and Target Review Panel
<b>Position</b>	Member
<b>Term</b>	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
<b>Payment</b>	9(2)(a)

**How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position**

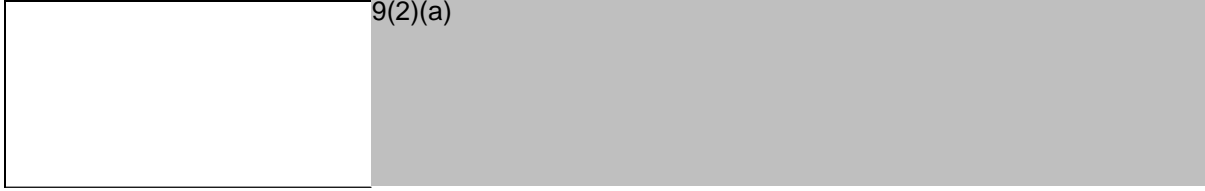
<b>Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Possible conflicts of interest</b>	
<b>Proposals for conflict management</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

**The Candidate**

<b>Name</b>	Professor David John FRAME
<b>Address</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Ethnicity(s)</b>	
<b>Age range</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Current or most recent Employment</b>	
<b>Government board appointments held</b>	
<b>Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held</b>	
<b>Qualifications and experience</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**



Date: 12 June 2024

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Candidate CV Form**

<b>Name</b>	Dr Sara MIKALOFF-FLETCHER
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**The Position**

<b>Organisation/Entity</b>	Methane Science and Target Review Panel
<b>Position</b>	Member
<b>Term</b>	From 30 June 2024 up to 30 November 2024
<b>Payment</b>	9(2)(a)

**How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position**

<b>Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Possible conflicts of interest</b>	
<b>Proposals for conflict management</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

**The Candidate**

<b>Name*</b> (family name in upper case; include title if appropriate)	Dr Sara MIKALOFF-FLETCHER
<b>Address</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Ethnicity(s)</b>	
<b>Age range</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Current or most recent Employment*</b>	
<b>Government board appointments held</b>	
<b>Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held</b>	
<b>Qualifications and experience</b>	

Date: 12 June 2024

## Candidate CV Form

<b>Name</b>	Dr Laura Eleanor REVELL
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### The Position

<b>Organisation/Entity</b>	Methane Science and Target Review Panel
<b>Position</b>	Member
<b>Term</b>	From 30 June 2024 up to 31 December 2024
<b>Payment</b>	9(2)(a)

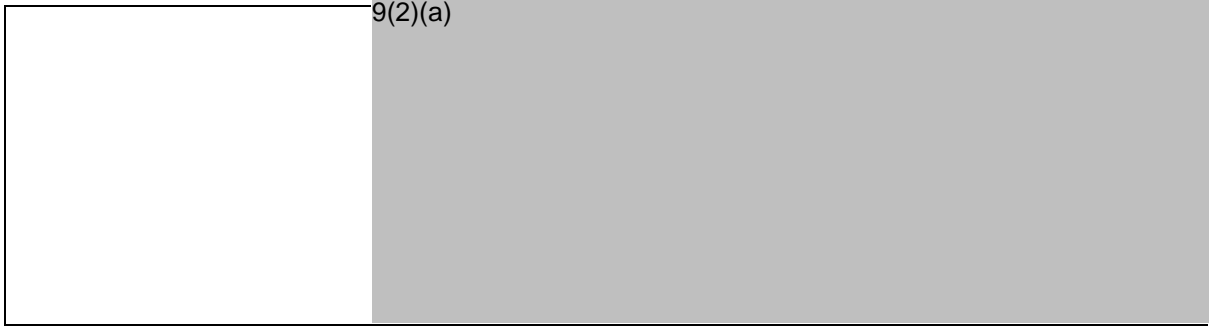
### How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position

<b>Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Possible conflicts of interest</b>	
<b>Proposals for conflict management</b>	

**The Candidate**

<b>Name</b>	Dr Laura Eleanor REVELL
<b>Address</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Ethnicity(s)</b>	
<b>Age range</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Current or most recent Employment</b>	
<b>Government board appointments held</b>	
<b>Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held</b>	
<b>Qualifications and experience</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**



Date: 6 June 2024

## Candidate CV Form

<b>Name</b>	Professor William (Bill) James COLLINS
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### The Position

<b>Organisation/Entity</b>	Methane Science and Target Review Panel
<b>Position</b>	Member
<b>Term</b>	From 30 June 2024 up to 31 December 2024
<b>Payment</b>	9(2)(a)

### How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position

<b>Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Possible conflicts of interest</b>	
<b>Proposals for conflict management</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

**The Candidate**

<b>Name</b>	Professor William (Bill) James COLLINS
<b>Address</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Ethnicity(s)</b>	
<b>Age range</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Current or most recent Employment</b>	
<b>Government board appointments held</b>	
<b>Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held</b>	
<b>Qualifications and experience</b>	

**CLASSIFICATION**

[Redacted] 9(2)(a) [Redacted]

Date: 10 June 2024

**CLASSIFICATION**



# Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Methane Science and Target Review Panel: Appointments

**Portfolio**                      **Agriculture, Climate Change**

On 18 June 2024, the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      in April 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) noted the intention of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Climate Change (the Ministers) to establish an independent review panel to undertake a methane science and target review [ECO-24-MIN-0042];
  - 1.2      in May 2024, ECO agreed to the draft terms of reference and to the review commencing on 30 June 2024, and noted that the Ministers were engaging with Ministerial colleagues on the list of Panel candidates and would report back to APH with their proposals [ECO-24-MIN-0096];
- 2        **noted** that the Ministers intend to appoint the following to the Methane Science and Target Review Panel, for terms commencing on 30 June 2024 and expiring on 30 November 2024:
  - 2.1      Professor Nicola Mary SHADBOLT as Chair;
  - 2.2      Professor David John FRAME as a member;
  - 2.3      Dr Laura REVELL as a member;
  - 2.4      Dr Sara MIKALOFF-FLETCHER as a member;
  - 2.5      Professor William (Bill) COLLINS as a member.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendance (see over)**

**Present:**

Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Hon Nicola Willis  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Andrew Bayly  
Hon Karen Chhour

**Officials present from:**



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### **Report of the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee: Period Ended 21 June 2024**

On 24 June 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee for the period ended 21 June 2024:

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Out of scope




APH-24-MIN-0111

**Methane Science and Target Review Panel:  
Appointments**  
Portfolios: Agriculture / Climate Change

CONFIRMED

Out of scope



Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet