**Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group**

**Terms of Reference**

In July 2016 Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group (the Group) to provide advice to the Government on adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Under the Paris Agreement, New Zealand is required to plan for and take action on adapting to the impacts of climate change.

1. The Group will provide to the Minister for Climate Change Issues:
2. An **interim report by May 2017.** This interim report should include a summary of the expected impacts of climate change on New Zealand over the medium and long term and a stocktake of existing work on adaptation, by both central and local government. The stock take should identify any gaps in knowledge and work programmes.
3. A **draft final report by November 2017.** The report should identify options for how New Zealand can build resilience to the effects of climate change while growing our economy sustainably. The report should identify the benefits and limitations of New Zealand having an integrated economy-wide approach to adaptation. Any recommendations should not be policy‑prescriptive[[1]](#footnote-1), should build on the findings of the interim report and provide a range of options.
4. A **final report by March 2018**, with final recommendations. The recommendations are not to be policy‑prescriptive and should provide a range of options for consideration.

*Mode of work*

1. The members of the Group are to also provide advice to technical questions from officials and Ministers throughout the process on an as needed basis.
2. Opportunities will be explored for community interaction to inform the work of the Group where appropriate.
3. The Group will be supported by a small secretariat based at the Ministry for the Environment.
4. The Group will draw upon a range of people from Government agencies and the private sector to inform specific elements of the work being undertaken.
5. The Group will not revisit New Zealand’s climate change targets, look at options to mitigate climate change, get involved with international negotiations, investigate options which would replace or discontinue the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, write policy, or develop regulations or legislation.

*Membership of the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group*

1. The members of the Group are appointed for a fixed period (November 2016 to March 2018) and the membership is listed in the Annex. However following the interim report, the membership of the Group could rotate depending on the issues identified.
2. The Group will be co-chaired by Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary Sector Strategy, Ministry for the Environment and Dr Judy Lawrence, Victoria University Wellington.
3. The members of the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group will be subject to confidentiality arrangements[[2]](#footnote-2).
4. Members of the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group will receive fees as appropriate and reimbursement for travel.

*Meetings and reporting*

1. The Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group will interact regularly (including meetings and using electronic means), with the frequency of meetings being not more than approximately every six weeks.
2. It is anticipated that the reports will be made publically available.

**Annex 1: Membership of the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group**

* Dr Judy Lawrence, Adjunct Research Fellow, Climate Change Research Institute, Victoria University (co-chair)
* Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary Sector Strategy, Ministry for the Environment (co-chair)
* Frances Sullivan, Principal Policy Advisor, Local Government New Zealand
* Kirk Hope, Chief Executive, BusinessNZ
* James Hughes, Associate Director – Climate and Resilience, AECOM
* Bryce Davies, Senior Manager Government and Stakeholder Relations, IAG
* Bruce Wills, Horticulture NZ Board, Motu Trustee and previous President of Federated Farmers
* Sam Dean, Chief Scientist for the Climate and Atmosphere Centre, NIWA
* Whaimutu Dewes, Lead Advisor to the Climate Change Iwi Leaders Group
* Gavin Palmer, Director Engineering, Hazards and Science, Otago Regional Council

1. The purpose of the Group is not to draft legislative tools, but to provide advice and options for consideration by the Government. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These arrangements are not intended to prevent the Group from engaging and consulting with stakeholders. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)