



Paula Jackson
Chair
Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Paula

OUTCOME OF WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEM REVIEW AND ACQUISITION OF METSERVICE

I am writing on behalf of shareholding Ministers in relation to the Weather Forecasting System Review (the Review). As you will be aware, there is wide support for change to our weather forecasting system to ensure New Zealand can meet future weather-related challenges by improving the integration between climate science, forecasting, hydrology and coastal hazards.

The Review provides recommendations on the optimal arrangements of our weather forecasting system, changes to the structural configuration of the Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited (MetService) and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA), and arrangements for access to weather data. We appreciate your efforts and contributions throughout the review process, which has helped the reviewer develop an informed view of the system.

Ministers have received and considered advice from officials on the recommendations of the Review. The reviewer's key recommendations included:

1. The reintegration of meteorology services, climate science, hydrology, and oceanography through NIWA acquiring MetService initially as a wholly-owned subsidiary, while MetService is retained as a brand as New Zealand's authorised meteorologist.
2. Subsequent to the acquisition, NIWA and MetService work on assessing the merits of a full amalgamation and, where appropriate, making a robust amalgamation proposal to shareholding Ministers.
3. Improving access to data, particularly publicly funded data, to support the application of weather data and modelling and third party uses.

Shareholding Ministers agree with these recommendations in principle and plan to take them to Cabinet for consideration. We expect NIWA and MetService will take actions that are consistent with these recommendations and facilitate their implementation if agreed by Cabinet.

It is critical that New Zealand's weather forecasting services continue, and that capability and infrastructure are maintained during any change transition and into the future, and I expect the board to guide MetService through this process.

To avoid confusion during the transition, shareholding Ministers expect that warning messages are provided from MetService as the authorised voice in times of severe weather, while MetService and NIWA collaborate closely during these events.

Officials will engage with you in relation to further advice on the implementation process, including in relation to competition law, access to weather data, retention of critical capability and business continuity.

I look forward to your continued contribution to this important work.

Yours sincerely

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
on behalf of shareholding Ministers

cc Stephen Hunt, Chief Executive, MetService, stephen.hunt@metservice.com

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Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Space
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the
Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

Barry Harris
Chair
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
s9(2)(a)

Dear Barry

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I look forward to your continued contribution to this important work.

Yours sincerely

Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
On behalf of shareholding Ministers

cc John Morgan, Chief Executive, NIWA, john.morgan@niwa.co.nz

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