



Farming, Food and Health, First
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri Māori

24 September 2013

Minister Joyce
Office of Steven Joyce
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Emailed: c/- 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister Joyce

I am writing on behalf of the Board of AgResearch to confirm our desire to hold a teleconference or VC with you on 25 September (NZST) to discuss the next stages for our Future Footprint processes. Our team at AgResearch is working to provide answers to the additional questions you have raised today and we will have those to you via MBIE overnight.

The AgResearch Board would like to highlight the following points:

- The date of 26 September for the communication back to staff following our staff consultation phase has been long telegraphed to the whole of AgResearch. This is the culmination of a very thorough and transparent process that AgResearch staff have engaged with very professionally. We had nearly 250 staff submissions and the Executive have recommended to the Board that we modify the FFP proposal to incorporate a good number of them.
- Stakeholders and media are also aware that we are proposing to communicate any revisions in our plans to staff on 26 September. As per our previous discussion with you, AgResearch has worked with a number of sector partners to provide supportive media commentary. Some of these are trickling out this week, the majority will follow in the fortnight after our staff announcement.
- If we do not release a prepared statement to the media, we believe it will be unrealistic to expect that our staff communication will not be leaked to the media (probably in a selective way).

As you are aware, on Monday Tom and I met with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, a Councillor and the CEO of Dunedin City. It was a cordial meeting and while they are still not happy with the potential impact on Invermay staff numbers, they did acknowledge that they are most interested in regional development. The positive outcome of the discussion is that they now intend to release a statement saying that the two southern regional Councils, Dunedin City Council, University of Otago, and AgResearch (and perhaps Dairy NZ) intend to work together to create an Environmental/Farm

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Systems cluster at Invermay. They regarded this as "a good news story" because this is very much the *topic de jour* for their regions. We are expecting to see a draft of that release today/tomorrow.

You will recall too that the AgResearch Board and Executive are taking a delegation down South on 10 October. After yesterday's positive outcome we all now regard this as the first meeting to explore what we can create at Invermay given AgResearch's commitment to focus regional farms systems work there.

While down South I will also be taking the opportunity to speak to a Southland Agribusiness monthly dinner meeting.

So, in summary, the AgResearch Board feel that to delay the release of the next stage of our plans beyond 26 September will be very difficult, and while not as ideal as a face-to-face meeting, we would very much hope that after tomorrow's telecon you feel comfortable to move forward.

Yours sincerely



Sam Robinson
Chairman

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9(2)(a)

From: McSweeney, Andrew
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2013 1:49 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a) : Eileen Basher (Eileen.basher@mbie.govt.nz)
Cc: Richardson, Tom; 9(2)(a)
Subject: Aide memoir on FFP
Attachments: FFP summarybrief.docx; Past and upcoming stakeholder engagement summary_1Nov2013.docx

Hi 9(2)(a) / Eileen

Here is the brief update on where things are at in FFP.

Sam and Tom will no doubt be able to fill out any areas the Minister wishes to expand on.

Cheers

Andrew

From: McSweeney, Andrew
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2013 12:38 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a) Eileen Basher (Eileen.basher@mbie.govt.nz)
Cc: Richardson, Tom; 9(2)(a)
Subject: Briefing on
out of scope

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Future Footprint - Update

The focus for AgResearch since the close of staff consultation on September 26th, has been on external consultation, with all stakeholders, and with a particular emphasis in Otago/Southland area, given the negative reaction there. At the same time we have a continued focus internally ensuring we effectively manage our staff through this stage of the project.

The table attached shows the past and planned consultation and activities to year end.

Initially the stakeholder consultation has been focussed on next users (funders) of our research - predominantly levy bodies and private companies, and with collaborators (e.g. universities, CRIs). We have now started to arrange and meet with farmer interest groups and these are targeted at sector-specific groups and by location, e.g. deer industry, sheep and beef, southern regions.

We are also arranging updates/briefings for local MPs in the regions our campuses are located.

In terms of Invermay since the Mayoral Forum of the 10th October, a further meeting has been held with Otago University, which was positive and both parties are committed to a number of further engagements to ensure the broader relationship works well. Meetings are scheduled with the two southern regional councils for November, and these will lay the platform for on-going planning around their future research needs. For all three parties these will be on-going as we work through their strategies and needs and our plans.

In terms of Ruakura the general external environment has been very quiet. The governing bodies of the various parties making up the Waikato Agri Hub recently endorsed in principle the progression of a strategic plan to develop the concept.

Internally we continue to meet with and communicate to staff on progress and next steps - and start the move on from the consultation phase on locations, to the next steps. This has included engaging in preliminary discussions about staff members' personal situations, where appropriate.

9(2)(b)(ii)

From a project aspect a number of initial meetings with potential building consultants and contractors have commenced. Procurement of these services is being managed in consultation with Hub partners at FoodHQ and Lincoln Hub as we believe obvious synergies exist when we commence design planning and construction activities.

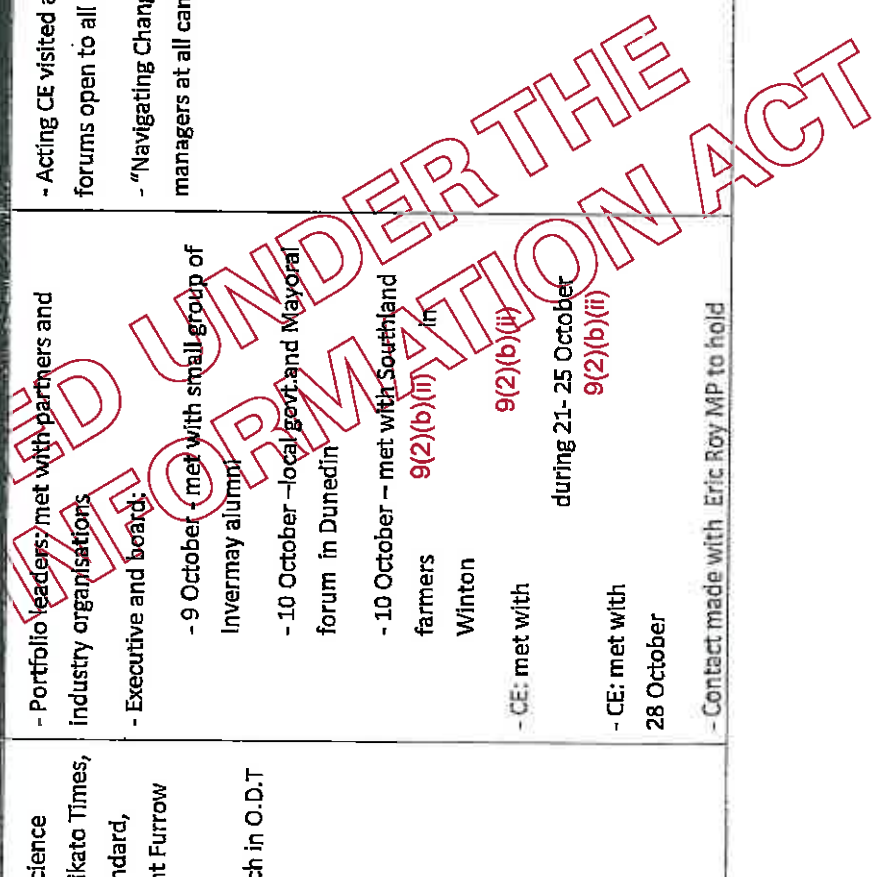
Out of scope

Finally the PMO for the Future Footprint programme is in establishment, with formal project governance arrangements being finalised internally by November/December.

Past and upcoming stakeholder engagement summary for AgResearch

This document provides a high-level overview of the actions AgResearch has been and will be taking to make sure key audiences understand the Future Footprint programme details and rationale, and the potential benefits for NZ farmers and NZ Inc.

Month	Media	External stakeholders (including research partners, industry organisations, farmers, local government and local MPs)	Internal stakeholders (Internal)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive "business as usual" science stories picked up by O.D.T, Waikato Times, Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard, Radio NZ, Newstalk ZM, Straight Furrow and farming media) - Opinion piece from AgResearch in O.D.T on 10 October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portfolio leaders met with partners and industry organisations - Executive and board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 October - met with small group of Invermay alumni - 10 October - local govt and Mayoral forum in Dunedin - 10 October - met with Southland farmers 9(2)(b)(m) in Winton - CE: met with 9(2)(b)(ii) during 21- 25 October - CE: met with 9(2)(b)(ii) 28 October - Contact made with Eric Roy MP to hold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acting CE visited all campuses for Future Footprint forums open to all staff - "Navigating Change" workshops held with staff and managers at all campuses



	<p>specific rural National MP briefings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact made with ^{9(2)(a)} arrange private briefing with Damien O'Connor and David Parker - Stakeholder support statements/ op-eds released by Dalry NZ, Deer Industry, Synlait, Federated Farmers, ANZCO, direct commits to 	
<p>November</p>	<p>- Pitch positive "business as usual" science stories to industry media – both regional and national science stories)</p> <p>9(2)(b)(iii)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CE: Meeting with Ravensdown on 5 November - CE: Meeting with regional council chairs on 18 November - CE: Meeting with Federated Farmers on 20 November - Executive organising farmer meetings with ^{9(2)(b)(ii)} across country with initial focus on Otago and Southland - Portfolio leader: meeting with Deer Industry NZ on 8 November - Initiating local MP briefings for regions around the four campuses to give context and rationale, starting with Mahawatu - CE and exec: Holding follow up meetings in Dunedin and Southland with farmer groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch internal Future Footprint brand and new communications platforms - Hold focus groups to understand key communication concerns - Maintain regular FF updates, sharing progress and opportunities to get involved

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage hub partners to champion benefits of hubs - Provide communications and regular updates for research partners and industry organisations to use with customers and farmers 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pitch positive "business as usual" science stories to industry media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide regular updates to research partners and industry organisations to use with customers and farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain regular FF updates, sharing progress and opportunities to get involved

ORIGINAL RELEASED UNDER THE INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 April 2014 3:44 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Sam Robinson
Cc: Richardson, Tom
Subject: AgResearch FFP Presentation
Attachments: AgResearch FFP Presentation to Minister Joyce 24Apr14.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a pdf version of the AgResearch Future Footprint presentation which will be used during the strategic and operating challenges discussion tomorrow with Minister Joyce at the Beehive.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks and kind regards,
9(2)(a)



Farming, Food and Health. Find
the answers. The way.

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