

Office of the Mayor



11 September 2013

Mr Sam Robinson
Chair AgResearch Board

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF AGRESEARCH JOBS FROM INVERMAY

Dear Sam

I appreciated the opportunity last week to discuss with you our serious concerns about the AgResearch Invermay proposal.

We are very disappointed with your decision to decline a meeting between your Board and our group prior to closing off staff submissions on your Invermay proposal on 26 September.

We feel that presenting our case to you would not have affected your ability to consult with staff, but rather enhance your understanding of the effects of the proposal being made. We are clear the proposal as it currently stands will be disadvantageous to both our national economy and the regional economies of Otago and Southland. We wanted the opportunity to show that your analysis has left some key gaps and in the interests of sound governance thought your Board would have welcomed the chance to meet with us.

As a result of your decision, we will be taking our concerns directly to central government. However, we want to retain the possibility of further discussion with yourself and with your Board. We would also be happy to take up your offer to meet with your CEO Tom Richardson, hopefully this week, to present our concerns directly to him.

Our delegation will meet with the Minister for Economic Development, the Hon Steven Joyce, on Tuesday 17 September to outline our proposal for enhancing rather than downsizing the site as outlined in your vision document.

The people of the southern region are clear they need and want a fully functional research centre based at Invermay. Otago and Southland key stakeholders want to ensure AgResearch consults with them before making this decision. We want to be assured the money planned for the hubs at Lincoln and Palmerston North will be used responsibly and will benefit the national economy.

We also want to be assured that should the decision go ahead unadulterated, that those who make it will be held accountable for any reduced service delivery or loss of productivity in the Otago-Southland area.

Yours sincerely

Dave Cull
Mayor of Dunedin

9(2)(a)

From: Eileen Basher
Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2013 12:26 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Further Feedback from the Minister

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Only copied to us

Eileen

From: Richardson, Tom [mailto:Tom.Richardson@agresearch.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2013 2:01 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a) Parliament
Cc: Fraser, Sarah; 9(2)(a) ; McSweeney, Andrew; 'Sam Robinson (srobinson@farmside.co.nz)'; Eileen Basher
Subject: RE: Further Feedback from the Minister

Hi 9(2)(a)

This quote from the PM in Dunedin yesterday suggests we may not all be on the same page - He defended the AgResearch board decision this week not to meet Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull, who is campaigning against the loss of Invermay. "The board is going through a process with the most important people. AgResearch has to talk to its staff and that's what it's been doing." There will be time for them to go talk to the mayor and to others, and that includes the Government. "We've just been letting them get on with their consultation."

Nonetheless, we have rearranged our plans for next week and an AgR delegation of Sam Robinson, Andrew McSweeney and myself are flying to Dunedin to meet with Mayor Cull and his nominated DCC staff on Monday Sept 23rd prior to our meeting with Minister Joyce et al.

As previously discussed, if Minister Joyce would like any additional information from AgR prior to his meeting with Mr Cull please let me know.

Would you pls confirm receipt of this email.

Cheers,
Tom

Dr Tom Richardson
Chief Executive

T +64 7 834 6601
M +64 27 449 1621
F +64 7 834 6641
E tom.richardson@agresearch.co.nz



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AgResearch Corporate Office
5th Floor Tower Block, Ruakura Research Centre, East Street, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

T +64 7 834 6600 F +64 7 834 6640 www.agresearch.co.nz

From: 9(2)(a) [an.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 12 September 2013 12:23 p.m.
To: Richardson, Tom
Cc: Fraser, Sarah; 9(2)(a) McSweeney, Andrew; 'Sam Robinson (sarobinson@farmside.co.nz)'; 'eileen.basher@mbie.govt.nz'
Subject: RE: Further Feedback from the Minister

Hi Tom,

Actually, I'm sorry, but I don't think we are on the same page.

Your decisions are due to be communicated on 26 September – this is when your proposal becomes a plan (so we have been told). This is the date that we have been working to, not a date in October. The Minister's expectation is that you meet with the Dunedin Mayor and City Council *prior to 26 September* (as you are doing with Ministers English and Joyce).

I realise that you have already told the Mayor that AgResearch are unable to meet with him prior to 26 September, however the Minister's expectation is that you do.

Please find a way to make this work.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a) | Private Secretary - Science & Innovation
Office of Hon Steven Joyce | Minister of Science and Innovation
7.2 Beehive, Parliament Buildings, Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

9(2)(a) <http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

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From: Richardson, Tom [mailto:Tom.Richardson@agresearch.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 12 September 2013 11:07 a.m.
To: 9(2)(a)
Cc: Fraser, Sarah; 9(2)(a) McSweeney, Andrew; Sam Robinson (sarobinson@farmside.co.nz)
Subject: RE: Further Feedback from the Minister

Thanks 9(2)(a)

We are absolutely on the same page. AgR are planning to meet with Otago/Soutland leaders face-to-face down there on 9-10 Oct which will be the start of more dialogue with them. We are working to confirm those dates by CoB today and I will include that in the materials that Eileen gets. In addition of course we are meeting with Ministers on the 23rd Sept and again with Minister Joyce on 3 Oct at the AgR AGM.

Of course we have important stakeholder north of the Waitaki too, so we will be meeting with many of them in Oct too.

So, there will be no "final" proposal announcements before late Oct at the earliest.

Cheers,

Tom

Dr Tom Richardson

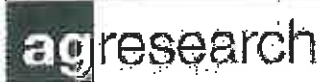
Chief Executive

T +64 7 834 6601

M +64 27 449 1621

F +64 7 834 6641

E tom.richardson@agresearch.co.nz



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Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri Māori

AgResearch Corporate Office

5th Floor Tower Block, Ruakura Research Centre, East Street, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

T +64 7 834 6600 F +64 7 834 6640 www.agresearch.co.nz

From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz]

Sent: Thursday, 12 September 2013 10:56 a.m.

To: Richardson, Tom

Cc: Fraser, Sarah; 9(2)(a)

Subject: Further Feedback from the Minister

Hi Tom,

Thanks for your call earlier. As discussed, Eileen Basher from MBIE will likely be in touch to gather information for the briefing that Hon Joyce has requested.

In addition to our discussion, the Minister also re-voiced his expectations around the release of the plan.

He expects that AgResearch will meet with both him and Hon English (which we have organised), *as well as* the Otago Council people, before announcing AgResearch's final proposal.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a) | Private Secretary - Science & Innovation
Office of Hon Steven Joyce | Minister of Science and Innovation
7.2 Beehive, Parliament Buildings, Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz> and <http://www.parliament.nz>

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9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2013 12:25 p.m.
To: Richardson, Tom
Cc: Fraser, Sarah
Subject: AgResearch Meeting with Dave Cull 23 September

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Tom,

I have spoken with the Minister's advisers who gave me a run-down of the meeting with Dave Cull's delegation yesterday.

The delegation presented the reasons that they are against the Future Footprint.

The Minister listened to their points of view and stated that

- AgResearch are thoroughly testing the proposal with their staff
- he will also speak with AgResearch about the proposal
- key stakeholders seem to be in favour of the proposal
- the final decision lies with the AgResearch Board.

I was told that you should proceed with your meeting with Dave Cull on 23 September.

As an aside, the Minister would like a bit more information on collaboration between Invermay and players in the Otago area. Currently we have the following information for UOO – is this accurate, and is there anything else you are able to provide (ie with other players like Abacus Bio)?

9(2)(b)(ii)

Regards,

9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Steven Joyce | Minister of Science and Innovation
7.2 Beehive, Parliament Buildings, Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

From: Fraser, Sarah
Sent: Monday, 30 September 2013 5:16 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Statements of support
Attachments: Extract from FF proposal Jul 13.docx; food-HQ_media release_final.docx; Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chairman's Update; Opinion editorial from Dr Tim Mackle.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi 9(2)(a)

Material attached which has been pulled together quickly – also our key stakeholders attended the Agr agm last year and spoke in support of our business case. They included DairyNZ, Beef + LambNZ and Fonterra (and others, but in the interests of time, I won't check who else attended!).

Statements from the chairs of the Lincoln Hub partners are attached, the Food HQ media release with statements from partners there is also attached. Also attached is the chairman's update from Beef + Lamb NZ which has gone out today.

DairyNZ has submitted an opinion piece to the ODT, Southland Times, Gore Ensign and Farmers Weekly (attached).

ANZCO Foods and Ravensdown also have prepared statements which are coming through today/tomorrow, with others in the pipeline.

Statement from the deer industry issued on Friday <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1309/S01005/dinz-keen-to-ensure-that-agresearchs-future-footprint-deliv.htm>

Below are all the media releases issued by Federated Farmers.

AGRESEARCH CONFIRMS ITS RECONFIGURATION

26/09/2013 11:05:00 A.M.

The need for modern progressive agricultural research centres of excellence has Federated Farmers supporting the reconfiguration of AgResearch.

» Read more

AGRESEARCH CREATING THE 'SILICON VALLEY OF FOOD'

1/08/2013 10:29:00 P.M.

With food being to New Zealand what 'Silicon Valley' is to the United States' technology sector, Federated Farmers is backing AgResearch's strategic move.

» Read more

NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGES ARE THE NEW BLACK

2/05/2013 11:33:00 A.M.

New Zealand's primary industries are well represented in the fiscally upsized National Science Challenges, with Federated Farmers playing a part in the "Our land and water" challenge.

»Read more

AGRESEARCH CAPITALISES ITS STRENGTHS TO BOOST SCIENCE

29/04/2013 6:54:00 P.M.

Shortening the journey from innovation reflects the hybrid vigour of innovation and collaboration marked by the new Lincoln Hub.

»Read more

Sarah Fraser

National Manager Corporate Communications

T +64 7 834 6620

M +64 21 609 703

F +64 7 834 6640

E sarah.fraser@agresearch.co.nz



Farming, Food and Health. First.
www.agresearch.co.nz

AgResearch Corporate Office

5th Floor Tower Block, Ruakura Research Centre, 10 Bisley Street, Private Bag 3115, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

T +64 7 834 6600 F +64 7 834 6640 www.agresearch.co.nz

EXTRACT FROM AGRESEARCH FUTURE FOOTPRINT PROPOSAL TO STAFF:

Key sector partner support

Over the last 12–18 months as we have developed our planning around the Future Footprint project we have seen a strong growth in interest and support for it, and we have engaged with key sector stakeholders and discussed our high level thinking. Some of them have also been developing their plans and we have real opportunities to work together to get the best mutual outcomes in terms of closer collaborative relationships, and sharing of infrastructure.

For example, DairyNZ have indicated a need to grow their South Island capability significantly over the next five years. We have agreed in principle that co-locating AgResearch staff and DairyNZ staff and sharing infrastructure at the Lincoln site would enhance our partnership and contribute to more joint research initiatives and better science outcomes for the industry, if our proposals become final decisions.

DairyNZ Chairman John Luxton says: "It makes sense that if we are all located together and within walking distance of each other that there will be a much more joined-up and effective response to staffing, training, advice, research and other professional and industry needs. We'll all be sparking off each other and it'll be a unique and stimulating working environment that will help us recruit and retain the best staff too."

Growing sector support for innovation hubs

Reflecting global trends in science and research, there is real momentum from many of the sector's larger stakeholders for the development of, and participation in, large innovation hubs. These will enhance collaboration and better link the sector from academic and research organisations through to sector partners and private companies. In addition our stakeholders see the huge talent shortage facing the sector being addressed more successfully in a hub environment where the tertiary, research and industry and private sector entities create pathways for the development and output of significantly more qualified graduates for the sector.

Plant and Food Research Chairman, Michael Ahle says: "The hub concept will amplify collaboration through further alignment of strategy, and greater sharing of resources. When you combine the growing collaboration between hub partners, the clear signals from industry on their appetite for innovation-led growth and the need for infrastructure renewal it is clear that the hub partners have a once in a generation opportunity to take agritech and food R&D in Canterbury and the Manawatu to the next level of delivery and impact."

Chairman of Landcare Research, Peter Schuyt, says the creation of the Lincoln and Palmerston North hubs offers unique opportunities both nationally and on a global scale. "They will become centres of excellence for scientists, technologists, university teachers and researchers, leading farm managers

Chairman of Landcare Research, Peter Schuyt, says the creation of the Lincoln and Palmerston North hubs offers unique opportunities both nationally and on a global scale. "They will become centres of excellence for scientists, technologists, university teachers and researchers, leading farm managers and business people who are committed to working together towards a common vision; and this in turn will attract other technology businesses, investment and organisations."

Lincoln University's Chancellor, Tom Lambie, says the Lincoln Hub is an integral part of the University's wider plan to enhance its strategic position as New Zealand's specialist, land-based university and to continue to meet the needs of the land-based sectors.

"The work of the Hub will be crucial to food production and agribusiness, with the ultimate goal of greater wealth and environmental outcomes for New Zealand. At the same time, the shared sense of stewardship of the environment amongst the Lincoln Hub partners will be amplified by working together in this way. This is an exciting new innovation model and we are very pleased to be part of it.

"The formation of the Lincoln Hub – and the corresponding opportunity for an even closer relationship between the University and AgResearch – will enable valued input from AgResearch (and the other Hub partners) to our curriculum reform process. The University is aligning our qualifications to the anticipated future needs of the land-based industries and it is important that we consult with others in the sector who have the same desire to increase the outputs of suitably qualified science and agricultural graduates."

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Monday, July 29, 2013

New Zealand's \$60b answer

New Zealand's first food super-campus will be the focus of FoodHQ, a research collaboration that aims to enable the nation's food exports to reach \$60 billion by 2025.

FoodHQ will be officially opened on July 29 at Massey University's Manawatu campus by Science and Innovation Minister Steven Joyce, who will be joined by Food Safety Minister Nikki Kaye. The first stage of FoodHQ, Food Innovation New Zealand, was launched in August 2009 by Prime Minister John Key.

FoodHQ is poised to deliver on the Government's Business Growth Agenda, which calls for a trebling of the real value of food exports in the next 12 years.

An investment into the campus of \$250 million over 20 years, FoodHQ will further unify established research organisations AgResearch, Fonterra, Massey University, Plant & Food Research, the Riddet Institute and the BCC. It is supported by the Manawatu District and Palmerston North City councils.

Project manager Mark Ward says FoodHQ's 20-year strategic plan outlines how the six organisations will collectively play a key role in the global food community. "This is an enormously significant step forward," Mr Ward says. "By working together as FoodHQ, our innovative organisations will enable a new economic platform for New Zealand, with higher levels of revenue and the creation of jobs."

A key part of the announcement will detail plans to develop a fully-integrated super-campus that encompasses the Fitzherbert Science Park on one side of Tennent Drive on the outskirts of Palmerston North and Massey University's Manawatu campus Turitea site across the road.

The super-campus will be home to more than 4000 researchers and educators involved in the agri-food value chain. Designed to meet – or surpass – world bench marks, it will compare with other industry-centred innovation hubs in Denmark, the Netherlands, Singapore and the United States.

"The six food partners are already within a kilometre of each other," Mr Ward says. "The super-campus will reflect a modernisation of the facilities in the Fitzherbert Science Park and Massey University, and the partners will upgrade current facilities and build new ones in consultation with each other.

"Most importantly, the super-campus will give current and future global customers one-door access to the very best in New Zealand food innovation. The collaborative approach creates a faster, easier way for food companies to work with the partners."

An estimated \$230 million in annual economic value will be added to the region from the creation of new research and development jobs.

Together, the research organisations already represent one of the largest concentrations of food scientists in the world but Mr Ward says there is a need to be more efficient and effective through collaboration.

"Because our value chains are fragmented, we're not as competitive on the world stage as we could be. While the six main FoodHQ partners are all strong organisations in their own right, bringing them together as FoodHQ opens the way for a collective vision, greater accomplishments and a defragmentation of the industry. This will attract major food producers from around the world to undertake their research and development here.

THE ENGINE
OF THE NEW
NEW ZEALAND

"FoodHQ will also champion the idea of food innovation and promote New Zealand's shift to being a value-added food nation, building on its strength as a commodity producer."

There are already many examples of how the organisations have successfully worked together in food innovation, such as the products Anlene™ and Ome-life. Anlene™, which is the leading adult milk formula brand across Asia offering a range of high-calcium dairy products specially formulated to encourage optimal bone health, resulted from a collaborative project between Massey University and Fonterra. Ome-life is a smart omega-3 fish oil delivery system, developed by the Riddet Institute, which is added to a very wide range of foods with little effect on the sensory characteristics and shelf life of the products.

Plant & Food Research is known throughout the world for adding value to fruit, vegetable, elite crops and innovative food products. Its work was the basis for the delcyan™ extract from blackcurrants that has been shown to reduce mental fatigue and enhance cognitive function and feelings of calm. Delcyan™ is now being marketed by Just the Berries Ltd as a functional ingredient and a consumer product. Likewise, AgResearch creates high-value foods and ingredients for the pastoral-based industries. The launch will be attended by industry leaders involved in agri-food production, research and development, manufacturing and marketing. The event will follow an afternoon of seminars showcasing FoodHQ's vital impact as the heart of New Zealand's food innovation expertise and capability.

What Food HQ partners are saying.

Dr Tom Richardson, Chief Executive, AgResearch.

"FoodHQ is a significant part of AgResearch's plan to reinvest \$100 million in its infrastructure and facilities across its four campuses and co-locate with our key research and sector partners. There are many benefits to co-location, and increased collaboration is just one of those. Much of our beyond-the-farm-gate science is already based here and we have existing projects with all of the FoodHQ partners. Increasing our commitment to work together through improving our physical infrastructure will ultimately benefit New Zealand's export sector."

Dr Jeremy Hill, Fonterra Research and Development Centre.

The dairy world never stands still and New Zealand has long been at the forefront of R&D, innovation and just doing things differently. At the Fonterra Research and Development Centre we're excited by the formation of FoodHQ as a base for world-class food science and technology, which complements our own unique strengths. Under our open innovation model, it will give us access to a wider pool of top talent, and specialist plant and equipment. We believe Food HQ will provide us with career tracks for the next generation of researchers on whose shoulders rest the challenge of keeping New Zealand competitive in the ever changing world of dairy."

Steve Maharey, Vice-Chancellor, Massey University.

Massey University has worked closely with New Zealand's land-based industries for more than 85 years. Today we are one of the leading agricultural and food science universities in the world, with expertise to offer through every step of the value-chain. As part of FoodHQ, Massey will be able to work with public and private sector partners to achieve the goal of dramatically lifting the value of New Zealand's food-related products. We will also be able to compete on the world stage with other global centres of food innovation research.

Peter Landon-Lane, Chief Executive, Plant & Food Research.

"Collaboration is essential for research and innovation to help the New Zealand food and beverage industries meet their future potential. From whole foods to functional foods, innovation that develops value-added products and delivers competitive advantage is vital. FoodHQ will allow us to share facilities, ideas and resources to ensure we are able to address our partners' needs in a holistic way. Plant & Food Research has significant resources and capability located in the Manawatu, covering a range of disciplines important to the food sectors we support, and we expect this capability to form an important part of the FoodHQ story. In addition, around \$10 million in strategic land and buildings owned by Plant & Food Research will be available to ensure the vision of a truly collaborative food research hub is realised."

Distinguished Professor Paul J. Moughan, Co-director, Riddet Institute.

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"In many ways this is our time – the moment for New Zealand to be a global leader in food innovation. I personally, have a vision of a science-led industry adding value to its unique raw material, to produce specialised food ingredients, isolated proteins and premium branded products targeted to our Asian neighbours. The potential to develop smart science-inspired foods and food ingredients, targeted at increasingly health conscious consumers is very real. Such products are high-value and command good profit margins, and have the potential to completely transform New Zealand foods and the New Zealand economy." The Riddet Institute is a government-funded Centre of Research Excellence in Food, hosted by Massey University.

Dean Tilyard, Chief Executive, BCC.

"FoodHQ is about a fresh approach. There is new energy around collaboration and the manner in which the parties are seeking to connect and align to the market. When combined, the current partners have a rich pedigree and an impressive breadth and depth of technical capability. By providing an environment that is supportive and open we expect FoodHQ to make a measurable difference to levels of commercialisation and start up activity, the growth of the New Zealand food sector and, ultimately, New Zealand's wealth.

Jono Naylor, Mayor, Palmerston North City.

"FoodHQ is a fantastic initiative that reinforces the long-standing food innovation activities undertaken in Palmerston North, while planning for the future to ensure the city benefits from the smart economy and the employment opportunities that will come with further investment. Most importantly, FoodHQ will cement Palmerston North at the heart of New Zealand's contribution to solving global food challenges."

Margaret Kouvelis, Mayor, Manawatu District.

"Never before has this region had such a unique opportunity to ensure that New Zealand can achieve a sustainable and competitive advantage on this scale. Manawatu's compelling environment and lifestyle opportunities will offer more than just a job for those who seek to be at the forefront of global food innovation. Manawatu is the mecca of vibrant science and agribusiness. With the advent of FoodHQ, job markets of the future will be defined by highly specialised, talented people at the heart of our key industries. Such a 'brain hub' on our doorstep will generate a multiplier effect that will ripple through our urban and rural population."

