



# Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

## Science and Innovation Event Briefing: Meeting with AgResearch, 4 November 2013

Date:	1 November 2013	Priority:	Urgent
Security Classification:	Commercial In Confidence	Briefing number:	0960 13-14

ACTION SOUGHT		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Steven Joyce Minister of Science and Innovation	Note that you are meeting the Chair and Chief Executive of AgResearch on Monday, 4 November	4 November 2013

CONTACT FOR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Eileen Basher	Manager, Institutional Performance	04 901 3931	021 701 726	✓
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THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES HAVE SEEN THIS REPORT					
<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> COMU	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> DOC	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please specify:

Minister's Office	to	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined
		<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change
Comments:		<input type="checkbox"/> Seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events
		<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn

## Recommendations

We recommend that you:

a.	Note that you are meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of AgResearch on 4 November.	
b.	Note the updates provided on key matters relating to the Future Footprint plan.	
c.	Note that MBIE finds AgResearch report back on staff loss in the Future Footprint to lack the detail required.	

9(2)(a)

**Eil en Basher**  
Manager, Institutional Performance  
Science, Skills and Innovation Group

Date

1/11/13

**Hon Steven Joyce**  
Minister of Science and Innovation

Date

## **Purpose**

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1. On 4 November 2013 you are meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of AgResearch. This meeting is scheduled at 8:30 – 9:00 am in your office.
2. This briefing contains:
  - An update on AgResearch's stakeholder engagement for the Future Footprint Plan.
  - Comments on AgResearch's report-back on staff risks, submitted 31 October (copy attached as Annex One).
  - Additional update on the Lincoln Hub.
  - Update from AgResearch regarding Wallaceville (Annex Two)

## **AgResearch's Stakeholder Engagement**

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3. The following information has been provided by AgResearch:

"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 below 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.

Month	Media	External stakeholders (including research partners, industry organisations, farmers, local government and local MPs)	Internal
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- Opinion piece from AgResearch in O.D.T on 10 October</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Portfolio leaders: met with partners and industry organisations</li> <li>- Executive and board:</li> <li>- 9 October - met with small group of Invermay alumni</li> <li>- 10 October - local government and mayoral forum in Dunedin</li> <li>- 10 October - met with Southland farmers 9(2)(b)(ii)</li> <li>- CE: met with 9(2)(b)(ii)</li> <li>- 9(2)(b)(ii) during 21- 25 October</li> <li>- CE: met with 9(2)(b)(ii) on 28 October</li> <li>- Contact made with Eric Roy MP to hold specific rural National MP briefings</li> <li>- Contact made with 9(2)(b)(ii) to arrange private briefing with Damien O'Connor and David Parker</li> <li>- Stakeholder support statements/ op-eds released by Dairy NZ, Deer Industry, Synlait, Federated Farmers, ANZCO, direct comms 9(2)(b)(ii)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acting CE visited all campuses for Future Footprint forums open to all staff</li> <li>- "Navigating Change" workshops held with staff and managers at all campuses</li> </ul>

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<p>Media</p> <p>External Stakeholders</p> <p>Audiences</p> <p>Engaging research partners, industry organisations, farmer groups, government, agri-fores (MIPs)</p>			
<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pitch positive "business as usual" science stories to regional and national science stories)</li> <li>- Pitch opinion-editorials from Food HQ and Destination Manawatu on innovation hubs to Manawatu Standard and The Press</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CE: Meeting with 9(2)(b)(ii) 5 November</li> <li>- CE: Meeting with regional council chairs on 18 November</li> <li>- CE: Meeting with 9(2)(b)(iii) on 20 November</li> <li>- Executive: organising farmer meetings with Beef + Lamb across country with initial focus on Otago and Southland</li> <li>- Portfolio leader: meeting with 9(2)(b)(ii) on 8 November</li> <li>- Initiating local MP briefings for regions around the four campuses to give context and rationale, starting with Manawatu</li> <li>- CE and exec: Holding follow up meetings in Dunedin and Southland with farmer groups</li> <li>- Engage hub partners to champion benefits of hubs</li> <li>- Provide communications and regular updates for research partners and industry organisations to use with customers and farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launch internal Future Footprint brand and new communications platforms</li> <li>- Hold focus groups to understand key communication concerns</li> <li>- Maintain regular FF updates, sharing progress and opportunities to get involved</li> </ul>	
<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pitch positive "business as usual" science stories to industry media</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain regular FF updates, sharing progress and opportunities to get involved</li> </ul>	

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.

9(2)(b)(ii)

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

### **AgResearch's Report-back on Staff Risks**

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4. In accepting AgResearch's business case, you requested that it report back on a number of items by 30 June. Due to delays in the Lincoln Hub announcement, this deadline was extended to 31 October.
5. AgResearch submitted its "Detailed scenario planning regarding risk and consequence of losing staff in the change process" on 31 October (attached as Annex One). Report-backs on debt, dividends and alternative sources of finance will be submitted mid-November.

6. 9(2)(b)(ii)

7. We remain unable to answer our key questions: Among the population of key affected scientists, are there any concentrations that will make the potential loss more damaging to national capability? How many of these key scientists were approaching retirement?

8. We recommend that you do not accept the report back and request that full information is provided by 15 November with the two remaining report-backs.

9. We have a number of lesser queries that we will share with management:

9(2)(b)(ii)

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### **Lincoln Hub Update**

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**Wallaceville**

14. Out of Scope

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16.

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**Communications / Media**

17. 9(2)(f)(ii)

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**List of Annexes**

Annex One: AgResearch Submission, 31 October 2013

Annex Two: AgResearch's Update on Wallaceville

**Annex One: AgResearch Submission, 31 October 2013**

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Released Elsewhere in OIA Response

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**Annex Two: AgResearch's Update on Wallaceville**

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