



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, KNZM FRSNZ FMedSci FRS
Chief Science Advisor

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Sir Peter Gluckman welcomes the release of the New Zealand Data Futures Forum report and recommendations

Sir Peter Gluckman, the Prime Ministers Chief Science Advisor, has welcomed the release today of the report and recommendations of the New Zealand Data Futures Forum, entitled *Harnessing the Economic and Social Power of Data*.

“The report discusses the many opportunities and new challenges for New Zealand which are created by developments in the area of data access, management and analytics,” said Sir Peter. The accessibility and interoperability of an enormous amount of data now makes it possible to ask and answer questions that were previously out of reach. Indeed, there are innumerable questions yet to be asked and explored by a new generation of analysts and innovators,” he said.

“This creates enormous opportunities for both better public policy and for innovation and economic growth,” said Sir Peter, while cautioning that it also creates a number of challenges of which the most important are the need to consider the ethics and privacy issues associated with the methods and applications of big data, and to ensure that appropriate oversight and stewardship processes are in place, as outlined in today’s report.

“Like other advanced nations, New Zealand is now realising the potential strategic value of big data if used well. But that use depends on social license from the community to do so. In turn this depends on an open and frank discussion that weighs the benefits and risks, where the latter are mitigated by robust privacy and risk management practices.”

Sir Peter welcomes this “well-balanced report,” calling it the foundation on which necessary public dialogue can be built. “I look forward to ongoing discussions on how we respond to the issues and opportunities raised in this report,” he said.

For further information:

See www.nzdatafutures.org.nz/

Contact:

Sir Peter Gluckman csa@pmcsa.org.nz or +64(0)9 923 6318