



## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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### Terms of Reference Chief Science Advisor (CSA)

#### INDEPENDENT ADVICE

- The CSA is appointed as a Ministerial Advisory Committee of one accountable to the Prime Minister.
- The appointment will be subject to the fees framework and all aspects of the arrangement will require APH approval.
- Appointment to a Ministerial Advisory Committee would be terminable at the will of the Prime Minister.
- The CSA will provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and his Government on such matters as are from time to time included in an agreed work programme determined by the Prime Minister.
- The CSA may propose matters for inclusion in the work programme.
- Since advice will be subject to the OIA it would in most cases be released in due course or proactively published by government.
- The OIA also applies to all workings of the Ministerial committee.

#### PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- The CSA will conform to the **no surprises convention** in regard to all public statements on science that may be proposed whether made in the capacity of CSA or as a private citizen.
- Public pronouncements on science matters by the incumbent while acting as CSA or in his private capacity will not be made without giving prior formal advice of the intention to release the information and its full content.
- This extends to fore warning the Prime Minister as a matter of courtesy of the intention to make a statement, even in the incumbent's acknowledged areas of expertise.
- Questions around managing Crown liabilities require that Government and Ministers retain the right to accept, reject or disagree publicly with any advice or public statements as they may see fit.
- The CSA may from time to time speak with representatives of other political parties in connection with matters of science and his advice.

## PROMOTION OF SCIENCE

- The CSA wishes to engage in activities aimed at promoting the role of, the contribution to society from, and career opportunities available in Science. Such promotion of science generally is to be encouraged. Even so the **no surprises convention** would apply to any large scale initiative.
- It may be that a systematic programme for promotion of science will be proposed and agreed perhaps in conjunction with other bodies (e.g. The Royal Society, IPENZ, TEC, MoRST, FRST, TVNZ, and NZ on Air etc).
- Such an initiative would require Ministerial sponsorship, an Agency home and budgetary support through normal processes.

## REPRESENTATION

- From time to time the Prime Minister may request the CSA to undertake a representational role. The full terms and conditions of such an engagement will be specified at the time of making the request.

## APPOINTMENT OF CSA TO OFFICIAL COMMITTEES

- In all cases the potential for conflicts of interest in such appointments must be considered carefully and worked out fully before engagement.
- To a considerable extent it is likely the influence of the CSA will be greatest if the incumbent remains outside the formal science system for the duration of incumbency.
- The Minister of RS&T may with the prior agreement of DPMC as the managing agency request one-off pieces of advice on key areas of interest from time to time

## EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF

- DPMC will be the managing agency for the CSA role and will enter any relevant contracts since a Ministerial Advisory Committee can not be an employer or enter into contracts.

## WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- Financial support for the role will be provided via a transfer from Vote RS&T
- Relevant support from the Ministry of RS&T will be channelled through the Minister of RS&T in the same way as requests for information from other ministers are handled by the Ministry of RS&T.
- Budgetary and financial management will be as agreed between DPMC and the CSA.