



25 May 2020

Hon Minister Megan Woods,
Minister for Science & Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister Woods

Response to NIWA Annual Letter of Expectations for 2020/21

I acknowledge your Annual Letter of Expectations for 2020/21. I note the Government's commitment to an inclusive, sustainable and productive New Zealand and the role that science and innovation will play in supporting that.

NIWA has been an enthusiastic contributor to the Collective CRI Research being undertaken by MBIE, and we look forward to playing our part in helping realise the potential of the nation's research, science and innovation system.

NIWA will continue to be a proactive participant with its contribution to the future science workforce through its joint graduate schools with Auckland and Waikato Universities, and the co-supervision it undertakes with up to 100 masters and PhD students each year in collaboration with all New Zealand's universities.

The nature of NIWA's work, coupled with its Te Kuwaha division will ensure its embedded Māori culture and partnerships with the Maori sector will continue to be a key focus during 2020/21.

You identified four specific expectations for NIWA during 2020/21 which I acknowledge as follows:

- **Property redevelopment:** Excellent progress has been made since your meeting with the NIWA Board at its Annual Meeting last year with the completion of the Developed Design for the Hamilton and Wellington site redevelopment. During 2020/21 we will complete the Detailed Design phase for both these properties and submit Implementation Business Cases for them. We acknowledge your request that we work closely with MBIE officials on all aspects of NIWA's Future Property Programme, and will continue to do so.
- **Transparency and access to data:** NIWA has improved, and will continue to focus on, the transparency of the terms of availability and access to its weather data, and is pleased to note that over 99% of the extensive download of its weather data is done so for free. NIWA will continue to cooperate fully with the Commerce Commission investigation and will work with them to address any concerns they may have.
- **Employment relations:** Not forsaking the issue NIWA addressed with the PSA last year, during 2020/21 NIWA will remain committed to ensuring its employment and workplace relations are conducted in a manner consistent with Government policy, and in particular to meeting or exceeding good employer obligations.
- **Strategic refresh:** Every three years NIWA undertakes a complete review of its organisational and science strategy which is articulated in its annual Statement of Corporate

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Intent. This year NIWA has completed such a review which will be evident in its 2020/21 SCI which has been drafted taking account NIWA's Statement of Core Purpose and the changes in the operating environment. We look forward to discussing NIWA's plans with your officials as they review NIWA draft 2020/21 SCI.

We recognise the short to medium term financial impact and high degree of economic uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 situation and will adopt a prudent approach to NIWA's financial planning in 2020/21. However, we foresee in the longer term an operating environment of significant opportunities for NIWA, because the nation's need for freshwater, climate and ocean science has never been greater. We will also ensure NIWA's strategic priorities in freshwater, climate and ocean science are refreshed to ensure they are well-aligned with the Government and our customers' priorities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barry Harris', written in a cursive style.

Barry Harris
Chair