

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE MEDIA RELEASE 1 January 2009

Four Possible Futures for New Zealand in 2058

A just-released report on four possible future scenarios for New Zealand provides food for thought this New Year, according to Sustainable Future.

Sustainable Future is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organisation specialising in complex issues affecting New Zealand. It aims to provide well-researched and comprehensive information to those interested in exploring New Zealand's long term future.

The report, *Four Possible Futures for New Zealand in 2058*, uses scenarios which clearly set out four different paths for New Zealand. Sustainable Future chief executive Wendy McGuinness says all of the scenarios are possible, but it is apparent that there are places where New Zealand does not want to end up.

“Scenario One would be hard work but worthwhile, Scenario Two would deliver us an isolationist and vulnerable nation in a hostile world; Scenario Three would likely deliver the end of our autonomy for the country and Scenario Four would deliver the probable end of humanity within one hundred years,” she says.

Mrs McGuinness says the report clearly shows that New Zealand has a very strong vested interest in ensuring that the world does manage itself well – because if it does not, this country cannot survive in the long term. The better the state of the world, the better the state of New Zealand, but the converse is also true.

“The implications for 2009 and beyond mean New Zealand must try to find ways to support multilateral decision-making, rather than watching a few powerful countries making all the strategic decisions. Small countries must *work hard* to make international multilateral decision-making organisations effective and, where necessary, create new organisations to fill the gaps,” she says,.

Mrs McGuinness says Sustainable Future's scenarios make it clear that New Zealand needs to lead by example, and in particular must:

- Be seen to deliver on all of our international agreements and legal obligations under the United Nations and international law.
- Design and apply indicators that measure progress in a comprehensive and integrated manner.
- Identify, investigate, reflect and consider the implications of all available strategic options in an open and transparent manner. Such an approach will not only deliver the best decisions, but just as importantly, gain the commitment of New Zealanders to actively deliver on those decisions.

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Report 6, as well as Think Piece 8 is available from: <http://sustainablefuture.info/Site/Publications>