

First results from Project 2058

The first report from an ambitious research project looking at how New Zealand may look 50 years into the future have just been released, highlighting the lack of a commitment by the Government to a National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Project 2058 is a two year research project, which is examining New Zealand's past and current landscape in order to explore and develop scenarios of how New Zealand could look and feel in 50 years. It aims to promote long-term thinking and leadership in sustainable development so that New Zealand can effectively manage risks and opportunities.

Sustainable Future is an independent think-tank based in Wellington. It is funded by a charitable trust, called the New Zealand Sustainable Future Foundation Trust. Sustainable Future was set up by risk management consultant Wendy McGuinness, with the aim of establishing an integrated long-term sustainable development plan for New Zealand.

A National Sustainable Development Strategy How New Zealand measures up against international commitments is the first of approximately 10 reports which will be released over the next two years.

In 1997, the New Zealand Government, along with other United Nations member states at a Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UN, 1997), committed to introduce a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) by 2002. In 2001, the Cabinet agreed to develop a NSDS, but to date no strategy is forthcoming.

Wendy McGuinness, who is one of the authors of the report, says New Zealand needs a national strategy urgently in order to lead change towards making New Zealand a sustainable nation and as a means of supporting our clean green brand for our export and tourism industries.

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