Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Workshop

Connecting Researchers and Policymakers

Wellington – Monday 18 September 2023

Christchurch – Wednesday 27 September 2023

This session is about meeting people who can help you create pathways for evidence-based policy.

Unless speakers have signalled a specific interest, this isn't a place to pitch for research funding or press for policy changes.

Use this opportunity to find out how to craft effective researcher-policymaker relationships and make connections with others that want to do the same.

Speaker index

Christchurch Speakers

Juliet Gerrard

Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor
Office of the Prime Minister's Chief
Science Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātanga
Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encounter barriers engaging across the research to policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?

Juliet's career has included roles in both Crown Research Institutes and universities. Juliet's research background is broad and interdisciplinary, with particular interests in fundamental and applied protein science. She has held an industry and outreach fellowship with Callaghan Innovation, founded a start-up company, chaired the Marsden Council, served on the Board of Directors of Plant and Food Research, and is currently on the Board of Te Papa.

Since Juliet's appointment in 2018 as the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia, she has worked from a base of four founding principles: rigour, inclusivity, transparency, and accessibility. She aims to create a trusted bridge between science, society, and government.

She has supported the science and science advisor community to provide advice to the PMs, ministers, and the public on a wide range of topics.

Tracey McIntosh

Chief Science Advisor
Ministry of Social Development
Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encounter barriers engaging across the research to policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?

Tracey is of Ngāi Tūhoe descent and is Professor of Indigenous Studies and co-head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland. She was the former co-director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga – New Zealand's Māori CoRE. She previously taught in the sociology and criminology programme at the University of Auckland. She was a Fulbright visiting lecturer in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and lectured at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. She has sat on several assessment panels including PBRF panels (Māori Knowledge and Development and Social Sciences), the Marsden Social Science panel, Rutherford Discovery, James Cook Fellowship and HRC panels. In 2012 she served as the co-chair of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty. In 2018–2019 she was a member of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group and Te Uepū Hapai i te Ora- The Safe and Effective Justice Advisory Group.

Her recent research focused on incarceration (particularly of Māori and Indigenous peoples), gang whānau issues and issues pertaining to poverty, inequality, and social justice.

Wellington Speaker

Mike Bunce

Chief Science Advisor
Department of Conservation Te Papa
Atawhai
mbunce@doc.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What pathways are you hoping to travel across the science/policy landscape – can you 'pivot' if needed?
- What are the skillsets you think you need to effectively travel the various science/policy pathways?
- How can the youth voice be better incorporated into evidence-based decision making and horizon scanning?

Mike is the Chief Science Advisor at DOC. Mike completed his undergraduate degree at Lincoln University and his PhD at the Australian National University in the field of virology. In 2006, he moved to Perth, Western Australia, to start his own laboratory. In 2014, he founded Curtin University's Trace and Environmental DNA (TrEnD) lab.

Through his research career, Mike has developed and applied DNA techniques to characterise biological communities within a wide variety of biological samples from fossils (ancient DNA) sediment and scat, to seawater and streams. His research focus has spanned many areas of environmental science including biodiversity assessment, impact assessment, archaeology, extinctions, food-webs, biosecurity, marine conservation, and endangered species detection.

In 2019, he stepped away from his academic position, to take up the role of Chief Scientist at the EPA. In 2020 and 2021, through the PMCSA's office, Mike was seconded into the Ministry of Health to work within the COVID-19 Directorate and then transitioned into a role at ESR. He started in his current role at DOC in late 2022.

Wellington Speaker

Ewan Delany

Chief Advisor
Department of Conservation Te Papa
Atawhai
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What are the big opportunities for new science and technology to transform what government delivers in the next decade?
- What do policymakers need to be doing now working with researchers to integrate these and other scientific advances?
- How can your work help us do better at reflecting environmental values in advice and decision-making?

Ewan is Chief Advisor, Strategy and Policy at DOC. His professional experience is centred on tackling complex environment and science policy challenges.

Before joining DOC, Ewan was Chief Advisor to the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, providing advice to the PM and Chief Executives on the design and implementation of our climate response. Prior to that, he led the development of the transport environment policy at the Ministry of Transport, including the Emissions Reduction Plan and 'clean car' programme.

From 2017-2020, Ewan led the Tertiary Strategy and Research Team at the MoE (responsible for PBRF and CoREs), before being seconded to work on the COVID-19 response, in the strategy team at DPMC. From 2012 to 2017, he worked in, then led the MBIE Science Policy Team, developing strategy and funding mechanisms including NSCs, SSIF, RRIs, Endeavour, and Marsden Funds.

Wellington Speaker

Gary Evans

Former Chief Science Advisor
Hīkina Whakatutuki | Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
gary.evans@vuw.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can I help you?
- In your assessment, what are the biggest policy challenges facing Aotearoa in the 21st century?
- Is there anything about how government works that you would like to understand better?

Gary is currently a professor at Victoria University of Wellington and Director of the Ferrier Research Institute.

Gary has a PhD in organic chemistry and specialises in understanding the role of enzyme function in diseases, with the aim of developing better medicines. A number of potential compounds from his work are in clinical and pre-clinical trial for the treatment of cancers, gout, malaria, and microbial infections. Gary is a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry. In 2011, he won the inaugural MacDiarmid Award from Royal Society Te Apārangi for his outstanding scientific research that demonstrates the potential for application to human benefit.

In 2023, Gary became a Ngā Ahurei a Te Apārangi Fellow, elected to the Academy of the Royal Society Te Apārangi for distinction in his area of research and the advancement of science.

Wellington Speaker

Shane Geange

Principal Science Advisor
Department of Conservation Te Papa
Atawhai
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we better support and develop Māori and Pacific Island researchers and future leaders?
- What do you see as the opportunities to make working for government agencies more attractive?
- How can we work in a more integrated way across government to address the multiple crises we face?

Shane's research background includes benthic ecology, marine protected areas, biodiversity modelling, conservation biology, and ecosystem services. He chairs the DOC/FNZ/MfE Marine Protected Area Science Advisory Group and is a researcher on several Sustainable Seas projects. Shane's work includes the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas adjacent to New Zealand, progressing marine goals under Te Mana o te Taiao and the Global Biodiversity Framework, and science input into marine spatial planning processes, both domestically and internationally.

Shane completed his undergraduate degree at Victoria University of Wellington before being awarded a Fulbright visiting researcher scholarship to undertake his PhD conjointly between Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Florida. In 2010, he was the recipient of a FoRST New Zealand Science & Technology Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Shane's work centres on finding durable solutions to environmental challenges that take into consideration interactions between the environment and human well-being, frequently working at the science-policy interface.

Wellington Speaker

Gill Jolly

Chief Science Advisor
Hīkina Whakatutuki | Ministry of
Business Innovation and Employment
gill.jolly@mbie.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Where have you experienced barriers for researchers engaging with policy makers and vice versa?
- What is the most important thing that you think policy makers need to know about research and vice versa?
- How can I help you connect with researchers/policy makers?

Gill is the newly appointed Chief Science Advisor to MBIE. Gill completed her undergraduate degree in Geological Sciences at the University of Cambridge and then went on to do a PhD in physical volcanology from Lancaster University. She worked for the British Geological Survey from 1992 to 2006 on a diverse range of projects including mineral exploration, environmental geochemistry and 3D modelling of Earth structure. Between 1996 and 2005, she periodically spent time on Montserrat, West Indies monitoring the active Soufriere Hills Volcano through a range of eruptions.

She then moved to Aotearoa to take up a volcanologist role at GNS Science in 2006. In New Zealand, Gill has had various people and science leadership roles and has been involved in several collaborative research programmes including the Natural Hazards Research Platform – a precursor to the NSCs. She was previously the Natural Hazards and Risks Theme Leader at GNS Science, responsible for developing the agency's strategic direction for research on volcanoes, tsunami, landslides, and earthquakes and acting as a conduit between the research community and decision-makers.

Wellington Speaker

Emily Parker

Departmental Science Advisor
Hīkina Whakatutuki | Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
emily.parker2@mbie.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do we have policy settings that help foster thriving careers in Aotearoa?
- How can we better support our providers to work better together?
- How do we make sure policy enables our ambitions of important research for our country?

Emily is a newly appointed departmental science advisor to MBIE. Emily's background includes being a professor of Synthetic and Chemical Biology at the Ferrier Research Institute and holding the position of Associate Dean of Science – Research at Victoria University of Wellington. She has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Canterbury and earned her PhD in Biological Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. Emily was elected a fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangi in 2019.

Emily contributes significantly to various research initiatives and organisations. She has served on the board of Manaaki Whenua and chairs AgResearch's Science Advisory Panel. Additionally, she has been involved in the governance of the Biological Heritage NSC and is deputy director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, a CoRE focusing on collaboration among scientists from different disciplines and research institutions to combat severe human diseases.

Christchurch Speaker   Wellington Speaker

Michael Plank

Professor of Mathematics
University of Canterbury | Te Whare
Wānanga o Waitaha
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What communication barriers do you encounter between researchers and policymakers?
- What do you see as the most important areas in Aotearoa where policy could benefit from better scientific evidence?
- How could the science system better incentivise translation of research into practice?

Michael Plank is a professor in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Canterbury. His research area is mathematical modelling with applications in biology and epidemiology. His work aims to use mathematical and statistical techniques and modelling to help answer research questions in application areas and to support policymaking. His research is interdisciplinary and he has worked in a range of application areas including infectious diseases and pandemic response, marine ecosystems and fisheries, and endangered language revitalisation.

He is co-lead for COVID-19 Modelling Aotearoa, a research programme established initially under Te Pūnaha Matatini but independent since 2021. In this role, he has worked closely with officials in a range of government departments to provide mathematical modelling to inform the COVID-19 response. Michael has received several awards in recognition of contributions to the field of applied mathematics, particularly for his communication of how mathematical modelling can benefit social and ecological environments and concerns.

Wellington Speaker

George Slim

Consultant

Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do you think research can make an impact through policy?
- What is stopping it?
- How can I help you?

George provides policy advice to the PMCSA and maintains a presence in Wellington for the office. He also works with Science New Zealand, the Crown Research Association.

George is a consultant working with organisations to provide policy advice, access to science knowledge, assist with funding sources, and consulting on strategy in the management of research and intellectual property. He has over 30 years' experience in the science system in Aotearoa and offshore. He has worked in research, the private sector and government.

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Christchurch Speaker   Wellington Speaker

Sam Thomas

Policy Director
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Is there anything about how government works that you would like to understand better?
- How do you work with Māori and mātauranga?
- Do you encounter any difficulties in communicating your research to policymakers?

Sam has a background in public policy and economics. He is the Policy Director at DOC where he is responsible for oceans, resource management, and tourism and economic development policy. His mahi covers oceans protection and coastal management (including the delivery of new marine protection programmes), wider environment policy including *Resource Management Act* (RMA) reform, renewable energy, the cyclone recovery, Māori rights and interests in natural resources, tourism and visitor management, regional economic development, trade in endangered species, and more.

Sam has held roles in private advisory corporations and been a senior analyst for the New Zealand Treasury.

Sam holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Leeds.

Ian Town

Chief Science Advisor
Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What are the barriers to translating evidence into policy?
- How can the public service benefit from engagement with academics?
- What are the incentives for academics to engage with public policy making?

Ian is the Chief Science Advisor at the Ministry of Health where he supports a team including the Director-General and wider Government through the provision of timely, high-quality evidence to support decision making. Ian played a major role throughout the COVID-19 response to ensure that the latest scientific information about the pandemic was in front of the Director-General and Ministers. The Public Health Agency is now leading the pandemic response. Ian joined the Ministry in 2019 and in July 2022 he joined the Evidence, Research, and Innovation Directorate Te Pou Whakamārama in the Ministry.

A physician by training, Ian has published extensively in respiratory medicine. Much of this research has been implemented through evidence-based guidelines for the management of common conditions such as asthma, COPD, and pneumonia. Ian has a background in senior management roles at the University of Otago (Dean) and the University of Canterbury where he was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2005 to 2013. Prior to that, he was a leading medical researcher in lung diseases at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Respiratory Physician at Christchurch Hospital.

Wellington Speaker

Steve Waldegrave

Associate Deputy Director-General
Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Which nations have health systems that invest the most on keeping people well (prevention and early intervention) rather than treating illness, and how have they achieved that shift?
- Which comparable countries have the most efficient and effective primary care systems and what do they do differently?
- Which emerging innovations and technologies offer the most potential for transforming healthcare efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of outcomes?

Steve has worked in policy and strategy since 1999 in many different roles. His experience spans the UK, Australia and New Zealand governments and topics as diverse as child protection, health and disability reform, sport, search and rescue, and disaster response (Australian fires and flood responses and earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic response in Aotearoa). In the DIA, Steve led the policy work to establish Fire and Emergency NZ. Most recently, he also led the team that supported government to pass the *Therapeutic Products Act 2023*.

Steve is now the Associate Deputy Director-General of Strategy, Policy, and Legislation at the Ministry. He supports the DDG to lead the Directorate and dives into various strategic and policy challenges wherever needed.

Steve has a passion for policy and teaching the skills to the next generation, particularly when it comes to advising on complex challenges. He is excited by opportunities to explore evidence and examples that can help make the case for re-focusing the health system on prevention and early intervention while containing the spiralling health needs and costs we might otherwise face as a nation as we collectively age and global warming continues.

Wellington Speaker

Jane Cameron

Team Leader, Strategic Transport
Christchurch City Council
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you connect your research to policy?
- How do you, or would you like to gain insight as a researcher into working with local government?
- Changing transport behaviours as we transition to a low carbon transport system is challenging – any research insights to support policy-makers in this area would be gratefully received!

Jane is a team lead in the Strategic Transport Team at Christchurch City Council. Her team focuses on long term policy and planning for Ōtautahi Christchurch's transport system. This includes working with partner agencies across central Government and the Greater Christchurch region.

Prior to this role, Jane has worked in a diverse range of central government policy and regional operational roles. This includes stints as the Southern Regional Operations Manager for Employment Mediation Services; in the Beehive in a private secretary role for the Economic Development portfolio; and in policy management and analytical roles across a range of portfolios including: economic development, research and innovation, justice, and operational policy in support of a range regulatory systems.

Jane is a career public servant, motivated by learning about new systems and operating environments.

Rochelle Faimalo

Regional Emergency Management Advisor
National Emergency Management Agency
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru
rochelle.faimalo@nema.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How are communities best engaged to influence your decision making?
- What is the practical application of your research and how does it positively influence the resilience communities in New Zealand?
- How do you or would you like to better understand the emergency management system in Aotearoa?

Rochelle is currently a senior regional emergency management advisor at NEMA. She has a background in youth and community development and has spent time in NGOs, Local Government and more recently Central Government. She was the Community Engagement Manager for the Hurunui District Council following the November 2016 Kaikoura/Hurunui Earthquake where she coordinated the social recovery for the district. In 2020, she moved to the Christchurch City Council as a community development advisor in the Waikura/Linwood Central Heathcote Community Board area.

Rochelle is part of the Leadership Lab that specialises in the design and implementation of leadership development programmes that stimulate organisational change, personal growth, and innovation.

Christchurch Speaker

Mike Fisher

Place & City Transformation Manager
ChristchurchNZ
mike.fisher@christchurchnz.com

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we develop research based upon cross-cutting/silo-busting research that tackles some of the systemic issues in our urban areas?
- What can we do to create better partnerships between local and central government?
- What are some things we can do locally to ensure research and evidence is better understood and applied?

Mike works in placemaking, urban planning, and development projects across New Zealand, Australia, and the UK. He is the Place & City Transformation Manager at ChristchurchNZ and the Director of UrbanTacticians. He previously worked to establish the Riverside Market in Christchurch and prior to that was the Manager of Future Communities at the City of Port Philip in Melbourne, and the Manager of City Planning & Development and Placemaking Coordinator at the Adelaide City Council.

Mike has qualifications in sustainable development from Imperial College London and planning from Massey University. Mike is an adjunct senior fellow at the University of Canterbury and is part of the global leadership for PlacemakingX. Mike is a member of NZ Urban Design Forum and was formally the chair of Te Pūtahi - The Christchurch Centre for Architecture and City Making.

Ashleigh Fromont

Team Lead, Hazard Risk Management
National Emergency Management Agency
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Evidencing the value of risk reduction is key to enabling change – how can we do more of this?
- What are the big scientific developments or challenges that you think policy and decision makers are unaware of, or aren't paying enough attention to?
- How can we help you connect your research to policy?

Ashleigh is the acting Team Lead of the Hazard Risk Management team at NEMA. Her team works to build networks to facilitate hazard and social science transfer, promote a risk-based approach to practice, and advocates for resilience in policy across Government.

Her area of focus in her role includes New Zealand's geological hazards monitoring, facilitation of research and science access, and tsunami system coordination. In an emergency, she supports the intelligence function in the National Crisis Coordination Centre as a function manager. Ashleigh is the current Chair of the Working Group for Disaster Management and Preparedness ("Working Group Three") of the UNESCO/IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning System.

Prior to working at NEMA, Ashleigh worked at GNS Science in the 24/7 National Geohazards Monitoring Centre as a geohazards analyst and shift leader. Ashleigh has a Masters in Geophysics from the University of Auckland, and a passion for communicating science.

Ken Hughey

Former Chief Science Advisor
Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
ken.hughey@lincoln.ac.nz

Two things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How to get better uptake at scale and at pace of applied science findings?
- How to break the 'business as usual' conservative management model when there are far better, science-informed, ways of doing 'things'?

Ken is an emeritus professor of Environmental Management at Lincoln University and was formerly the Chief Science Advisor to DOC. His research interests included freshwater, instream flow needs for birds, policy and its application. He was also involved in research into tourism and climate change, tourism and disaster management, environmental perceptions monitoring, and introduced animal management.

While Ken is now 'retired', he is undertaking a wide range of environmental consultancy activities. Over the past year these have included work for DOC leading their now settled negotiations with Meridian and Genesis for a native biodiversity conservation package for the Waitaki catchment associated with the companies' resource consent applications for the two hydro electric power schemes; leading negotiations for Biosecurity NZ around funding of wilding tree control in the Mackenzie Basin; assisting Amuri Irrigation Company with environmental aspects of a Future Farming Project; and being on the co-governance board of Tiakina Kauri (the kauri dieback management agency).

Simon Kingham

Chief Science Advisor
Te Manatū Waka - Ministry of Transport
s.kingham@transport.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Can you help our work on behaviour change to reduce transport GHGs?
- To meet our climate change obligations Aotearoa has to 'unlove' the car. Any ideas how we can do this (and allow our politicians to get re-elected!)?
- How can we 'promote' good evidence in a world of fake news?

Simon is Professor of Geography at the University of Canterbury. His research primarily focuses on the impact of the urban environment on individual and community health and wellbeing. Much of his research uses geospatial science including some done through the GeoHealth Laboratory, of which he is the Director. His research incorporates a strong community engagement focus.

Simon spends two days a week working for the MoT. The work spans across a range of transport areas including access and mobility, resilience, active travel, urban development, demand management and safety. In addition, Simon's role includes a focus on how to better link the research being done in New Zealand with policy decisions at the MoT.

Tom Wilson

Chief Science Advisor
National Emergency Management Agency
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru
thomas.wilson@nema.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What inspires you to do the research you do?
- How can you be best supported to contribute rigorous, relevant, and trusted advice to society and government?
- How could the science system be transformed to better meet the needs of society?

Tom is the Chief Science Advisor for NEMA. He is also Professor of Disaster Risk & Resilience at University of Canterbury. In other words, he's a disaster nerd who tries to use science to keep people safe and help make Aotearoa more disaster resilient.

As NEMA's Chief Science Advisor, Tom's role is to lead and support providing high-quality, independent, scientific advice to NEMA and the wider Aotearoa New Zealand emergency management system. This includes considering how to more effectively reduce disaster risk and support better disaster recoveries in the long term, as well as how to prepare for and respond to future disasters. Tom's role also includes supporting partnerships with science organisations and helping to better connect research with policy and practice.

Tom's research expertise is disaster risk assessment and rural disaster resilience. He has led and been a senior researcher in various large interdisciplinary applied research programmes studying the physical, social, and economic impacts of natural hazards (with a focus on volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunami), and developing strategies which can increase disaster resilience in Aotearoa, the Pacific, and internationally.

Christchurch Speaker

Notes