

31 July 2012

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Dear Professor Shepherd

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your input into the current NIWA review of its atmospheric science and priorities, and in particular proposed changes at our Lauder research facility. The review has followed NIWA process, and has considered input from within NIWA, and national and international scientists, institutions and programmes. The predominant factors emphasised in the submissions were:

- The global significance of Lauder (and Arrival Heights) as an observing site.
- The importance of continuing core time-series measurements.
- The need for science input and oversight of the measurements.

These factors have been taken into account in making the following decisions:

- NIWA will continue, as planned, to support Lauder as a key facility in our atmospheric research portfolio.
- A new scientist position focusing on atmospheric measurement and analysis will be created to help maintain measurement quality and innovation, and the total science staffing at Lauder will be reduced by two positions.
- As intended, the core regular atmospheric measurements at Lauder will continue.
- Some short-term experimental campaigns will be discontinued in order to focus on recent initiatives such as TCCON.
- NIWA will continue its capital investment in equipment to support measurements at Lauder, with a new radio-sonde receiver this financial year.
- NIWA values and will continue to support collaboration with other science institutions, and will actively explore new and emerging opportunities.
- The Lauder based science team will be managed from Wellington, rather than Christchurch, to further integrate NIWA's atmospheric and climate research.

Atmospheric science is a core area of focus within NIWA, and NIWA remains committed to supporting its associated facilities and research. We look forward to your continued support in helping NIWA contribute to the Southern Hemisphere atmospheric measurements important for understanding the drivers of global atmospheric change and climate.

Kind regards



Dr Rob Murdoch
Acting Chief Executive