



Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister for Economic Development
Minister of Science and Innovation
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
Associate Minister of Finance

07 AUG 2012

Theodore Shepherd
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Dear Theodore

NIWA Lauder Facility for Upper Atmospheric Science

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2012 regarding the proposed reduction in headcount of three staff members engaged in climate and atmosphere research at NIWA.

The New Zealand Government is committed to supporting science and innovation in a variety of ways despite tight fiscal constraints. Climate change, the study of upper atmospheric science, and resultant international connections, remain a Government priority.

I appreciate that the NIWA Lauder Research Station is internationally renowned for its importance in measuring CFCs, ozone, UV levels and greenhouse gases. I am advised that the Lauder Research Station will continue to collect these measurements in support of New Zealand's international and national science priorities. In particular, data collection and monitoring for the network for detection of atmospheric composition and total column carbon observation network will continue. None of New Zealand's major international commitments will be in any way affected by this proposed change, and information collated will remain available to the wider science community. I can assure you that the quality of data supplied will not be affected by the proposed changes.

NIWA has invested considerably in new equipment at the Lauder facility over the last two years, with further capital investment planned for this financial year. This will help ensure that New Zealand is well placed to deliver on its international commitments and the Lauder facility is working efficiently in support of atmospheric research needs.

NIWA is a Crown Research Institute and as such the Board of Directors of NIWA is charged with making priority decisions for its investment in science and research which benefit New Zealand. NIWA remains committed to climate and atmospheric science and research which is part of its core purpose.

As part of NIWA's preparation of its 2012/17 Statement of Corporate Intent, consultations were conducted with a wide range of stakeholders to review science investment priorities. NIWA has reviewed its resource allocation, to reflect these priorities, in the atmospheric and

climate team. Following the consultation, NIWA has taken the decision to establish a new scientist position at Lauder focusing on atmospheric measurement and analysis to maintain measurement quality and innovation. As a result, there will be a net reduction of two positions at Lauder.

Please be assured that NIWA will continue to deliver the core regular atmospheric measurements at Lauder, including all international commitments.

I understand that NIWA will be writing to you personally. If you have any further queries please forward them to the Chair of the NIWA Board of Directors, Chris Mace.

Yours sincerely



Steven Joyce
Minister of Science and Innovation