

18 MAR 2019

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



OIA19-0070

John Luke
fyi-request-9540-1bce8664@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 8 February 2019 relating to how the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) calls for nominations on its boards.

MPI follows Cabinet Guidelines in the appointment of board members (The Appointments Process).

In the Appendix to this letter, MPI is releasing to you a list of the boards you requested and how each of them calls for nominations, if a member of the general public can submit their interest and what upcoming positions, if any, exist.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Arbuckle', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Vincent Arbuckle
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Appendix 1

Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee

This board has been discontinued.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Board

The FSANZ Act prescribes that the Board be made up of 12 members (in addition to the FSANZ CEO and Chair)

- three members nominated by the New Zealand lead Minister on the [Ministerial] Forum;
- a member nominated by consumer organisations;
- a member nominated by the [Australian] National Health and Medical Research Council;
- three members nominated by organisations, or public bodies, established for purposes relating to science or public health; and
- two members nominated by organisations, or public bodies, established for purposes relating to the food industry.

MPI manages the nomination of those members under the first category (nominated by the New Zealand Minister on the Ministerial Forum) in accordance with the FSANZ Act. A wide range of organisations are contacted for nominations. This allows for a form of 'vetting process' ensuring the high quality of candidates that MPI receives. The Minister also seeks nominations from his Ministerial colleagues. Although we can accept self-nominations, all nominees need to meet requirements in the FSANZ Act. The Act requires expertise in prescribed fields for each of the positions, which organisations in that field are well placed to assess.

The other positions on the Board are managed by the Australian Department of Health.

If a member of the public wished to apply to the FSANZ Board, they would be best to contact a nominating organisation or MPI at info@mpi.govt.nz with a resume and express an interest in being nominated for any future positions on the FSANZ Board.

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) and National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC)

Call for nominations: Forthcoming vacancies are advertised on MPI's website and on the Government jobs website. Relevant organisations may also be approached for nominations.

Expressions of interest: There is no specific system for the two committees.

Upcoming positions: There will be one vacancy for NAWAC (for someone with knowledge and experience of the commercial use of animals). There will be two vacancies for NAEAC

(one for someone with knowledge and experience of veterinary science and the other for someone with knowledge and experience of medical science.)

New Zealand Walking Access Commission

In conducting a Board Appointments process MPI follows the State Services Commission's guidance on best practice. After a vacancy is identified and the skills profile has been confirmed, nominations are sought from the Walking Access Commission and central agencies, including:

- Te Puni Kokiri
- Ministry for Women
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples
- Office for Disability Issues (MSD)
- Treasury
- Office of Ethnic Communities (DIA)
- Consumer Protection (MBIE)
- Other relevant organisations

MPI then shortlists nominations based on the suitability and skills agreed by the Walking Access Commission's Chair and the Minister. The shortlisted candidates are then contacted to determine their interest. The candidates are put to the Minister of Agriculture for selection of final candidates to take to the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee to be appointed.

Please note that there is no call for nominations, hence why MPI seeks nominations from other agencies. Two current Walking Access Commission board members terms expire this year. MPI is currently confirming with the Minister whether he would like to replace these members.

Primary Growth Partnership Investment Advisory Panel

Primary Growth Partnership Investment Advisory Panel (IAP) members are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, with the approval of the Appointments & Honours Committee (APH).

Candidates are sourced from industry and government networks, as well as databases such as the Crown Ownership Monitoring Unit (COMU) Appointments database. This is located at www.boardappointments.co.nz and is the main point of contact for people who wish to register their interest in being considered for Crown company board roles.

As a whole, the IAP membership must cover the skills, knowledge, and experience in the areas of:

- Governance;
- assessing, developing, and executing new business and innovation opportunities;

- general knowledge and understanding of NZ's primary industries: capabilities, challenges, and opportunities (ideally a good combination of experience across the members);
- understanding of government strategy and frameworks and policy;
- developing and commercialising food, fibre, and agri-business products and technology;
- commercialising R&D;
- science acumen and an awareness of New Zealand's broader science and innovation environment;
- knowledge of current and future trends in the international food, fibre, and agri-business markets;
- assessing and developing markets, including consumer awareness and international markets;
- entrepreneurship;
- exporting;
- agri-business capability and training in New Zealand; and
- environmental sustainability principles and challenges

Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre (Wairarapa) Trust Board

MPI is directly involved with one appointment to the Taratahi Trust Board. The Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre (Wairarapa) Act 1969 (the Taratahi Act) provides that the Chief Executive of the Ministry is a Board member. This position is delegated to a senior employee of MPI and therefore there is no public process for the appointment of this position on the Board. Other Taratahi Board members are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture on the nomination of industry or other bodies as set out in the Taratahi Act. These organisations have their own nomination processes with no direct MPI involvement.

Telford Farm Training Institute

Under the Telford Farm Training Institute Act 1963 (the Telford Act), one member of the Telford Board is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. All other appointments are made by industry or other bodies that are set out in the Telford Act. The most recent Ministerial appointment was made in June 2018 for a three year term expiring June 2021. The process to appoint this member to the Telford Board was consistent with the Telford Act and the terms of the State Services Commission appointment guidelines. MPI received nominations for this vacancy from the Telford Board, the Ministry for Women and Te Puni Kōkiri. Consideration was given to achieving appropriate gender, age, geographical and ethnic balance while meeting the experience requirements of the Board.

New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority (NZHEA)

Section 10(1) of the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority Act 1987 (the Act) provides that the Board of the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority (the HEA) comprise the following members, appointed by the Minister of Agriculture:

- s10(1)(a) an independent Chair appointed on the Minister's own nomination;
- s10(1)(b) two members nominated by Horticulture New Zealand Inc.;
- s10(1)(c) one member nominated by the Horticultural Exporters Council Inc.;

- s10(1)(d) one member appointed on the Minister's own nomination.

Section 10(2) of the Act requires that the Minister may appoint a person as a member of the HEA Board only if the Minister is satisfied that the person has a knowledge of, or experience in, marketing or international trade.

For appointments under subsections 10(1)(b) and (c), the Minister considers the industry nominations against the requirements in subsection 10(2), and against Government policy for diversity of representation on statutory boards. For appointments under subsections 10(1)(a) and (d), the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) prepares a list of potential candidates for the Minister to consider. The Minister considers the list of potential candidates from MPI, and other potential candidates, against the requirements in subsection 10(2), and diversity of representation. For the Board Chair position, the Minister also considers the candidates' leadership and governance experience.

When compiling a list of potential candidates under subsections 10(1)(a) and (d), MPI consults with the HEA Board, and relevant government agencies. MPI conducts appropriate enquiries concerning conflicts of interest, in accordance with the requirements in the Act and State Services Commission appointment guidelines.

Current membership of the HEA Board can be found on HEA's website <http://www.hea.co.nz>. Mr Wade Armstrong's and Mr Peter Luxton's current terms expire in 2019. There is currently no system in place to take expressions of interest from members of the public.

The following boards are administered by the same team and therefore have the same process:

New Zealand Dairy Core Database Access Panel (NZDCDAP)

New Zealand Meat Board (the Meat Board)

New Zealand Pork Industry Board (the Pork Board)

Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT)

Veterinary Council of New Zealand (the Vet Council)

Nomination process for boards:

- MPI calls for nominations for Minister-appointed positions via email. The email is sent outlining the functions of the board, the act or deed under which it is administered, the skillset that the act and/or that the board requires, and the due date and information required for nominations.
- The following organisations are contacted for nominations:
 - Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment;
 - The Treasury;
 - State Services Commission;
 - Te Puni Kokiri;
 - Ministry for Women;

- Ministry for Pacific Peoples;
- Ministry for Primary Industries; and
- Local Government New Zealand.
- Where necessary, relevant industry bodies and stakeholders are also contacted via email for nominations.
- In the case of AGMARDT, the Minister is also required to consult with the Minister responsible for New Zealand's international trade negotiations.
- In the case of the Meat Board and the Pork Board, the Minister is also required to consult with the relevant Board.
- In the case of NZDCDAP, the Minister is required to consult with DairyNZ in some cases.

Public expressions of interest

- There is currently no system in place to take expressions of interest from members of the public however, the board appointments website www.boardappointments.co.nz is where Crown organisation board positions are advertised.

