

STATE SERVICE ACT REFORM

Serving Successive Governments



As part of the reform of the State Sector Act, we are proposing to introduce a requirement for public service sectors to produce a Long-term Insights Briefing. This would be a public document produced mid-way through each election cycle containing key trends, data and analysis on sectors over the medium to long-term.

Why legislate for a Long-term Insights Briefing?

A small number of departments produce medium to long-term information. However, a number do not and there are very few regularly produced sectoral reports. A legislative requirement will ensure that the Public Service produces regular medium to long-term reports on key issues and trends. Requiring the Briefing to be published will ensure the public and opposition parties are provided with regular impartial information, strengthening transparency across the public sector.

Departments already produce medium to long-term information. Will the Briefing just create additional compliance?

There are a number of departments that already produce medium to long-term information, for example, the Treasury's *Long Term Fiscal Statement* and the Ministry for the Environment's *Environment Aotearoa* reporting series. The intention is that the Briefing will at least in part draw on these existing sources.

The proposal suggests the Briefing will be produced by sectors. What is a sector?

A sector is a grouping of departments responsible for the management and stewardship of a particular system, for example the natural resources sector, justice sector, and education sector. Each of these sectors is made up of multiple departments, generally supported by the central agencies (the Treasury, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the State Services Commission).

How will the proposal be different to supporting the government of the day?

The Public Service plays a critical role in supporting the government of the day, but it also has a duty to take a medium to long-term view of how to best support New Zealand over successive governments. We need a public service that can look past a three-year term and uses foresight to think, plan, and deliver services with the future interest of New Zealanders at the front and centre.

How will you ensure the Briefing provides impartial information?

Under the proposal, the Briefing will go through a review process within the Public Service to ensure that it presents impartial, evidence-based information. We welcome your views on other ways to ensure the Briefing is impartial.