

An environmental roadmap for the way forward

Gary Taylor, CEO, Environmental Defence Society

The Resource Management System

- Set up a process to review New Zealand's entire resource management system
- Consider a Royal Commission or similar to conduct an independent, evidence-based national conversation on the way forward
- Include legal, administrative and pricing elements

Terrestrial Biodiversity

- Substantially ramp-up investment in Predator Free NZ
- Place a moratorium on tenure review and land clearance on pastoral leases
- Commence a thorough review of High Country policy
- Implement the outcomes of the collaborative process on NPS Biodiversity
- Ramp up DOC's core funding
- Value ecosystem services in any cost-benefit analysis for development
- Protect outstanding landscapes and avoid watering down the NZCPS

Freshwater

- Speed up implementation of freshwater reforms.
- Implement the balance of the LAWF recommendations
- Price all use of freshwater (not just bottling) and invest revenue in clean-ups
- Require land use consents for all intensive farming (so environmental impacts can be fully considered)
- Include sediment in the National Objectives Framework

Freshwater (contd)

- Expand Water Conservation Orders to cover associated land (to ensure the values protected by the Order are not compromised by land-sourced impacts)
- Assist rural NZ with transition to lower impact land uses
- Stop irrigation subsidies for intensive agriculture
- Provide funding support for small town wastewater plant upgrades

Marine

- Enact Marine Protected Areas legislation that includes the EEZ
- Enact the Kermadec Oceans Sanctuary Bill
- Amend the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act to create a stronger governance body for the Hauraki Gulf
- Implement the Seachange Tai Timu Tai Pari marine spatial plan (shameful tardiness from agencies)

Marine (contd)

- Roll out marine spatial planning to other areas in New Zealand (Marlborough Sounds, Bay of Islands, Stewart Island, Bay of Plenty etc)
- Initiate a full independent review of the fisheries management system
- Phase out fishing methods which damage the seabed (trawling and dredging) through spatial restrictions
- Invest in the development and application of environmentally-friendly harvest methods

Environmentally sound development

- Review the Business Growth Agenda, to reduce our dependence on environmentally-damaging activities for economic growth
- Develop an urban development strategy, emphasizing compact settlements aligned along public transport corridors with congestion pricing
- Prioritize energy efficiency investments in business and home environments
- Investigate the potential for offsetting unavoidable development impacts

Climate Change

- Set up a Climate Change Commission as recommended by the PCE
- Task it with developing a transition plan to net zero emissions
- Task it also with responsibility for developing adaptation strategies