

NZ Taxonomy Technical Expert Group (TEG) meeting #10 summary minutes

7.00pm-9.00pm NZT, Thursday 19 August 2025

Via Microsoft Teams

Thematic focus areas per TEG meeting agenda:

For alignment

- Outstanding issues from the TEG papers-only session feedback on climate change mitigation and adaptation and resilience (A&R) criteria
- Approach to second public consultation

For endorsement

- All criteria, for submission to the Government quality assurance function before consultation

Attendees:

TEG co-Chairs

1. **Andy Reisinger**, Independent Climate Change Expert
2. **Pip Best**, Partner – Climate Change & Sustainability Services, EY Oceania

TEG members

3. **Adam Coxhead**, Head of Sustainable Finance, Bank of New Zealand
4. **Amelia Sharman**, Director – Sustainability Reporting, External Reporting Board (XRB)
5. **Caroline Poujol**, Director – Sustainable Finance (NZ), ANZ
6. **David Hall**, Policy Director, Toha Network
7. **David Woods**, Independent
8. **James Paterson**, Head of Sustainable Finance, ASB
9. **Jono Broome**, Associate Director – Client Advisory APAC, Morningstar Sustainability
10. **Jorge Waayman**, Manager – ESG Research, Harbour Asset Management
11. **June McCabe**, Independent Director; Pou Tahua Representative, National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF)

Government observers

12. **Lauren Aspoas**, Policy Advisor – Sector Policy & Finance, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for the Environment (MfE)
13. **Mela Greenslade**, Head of Green Bonds, The Treasury – New Zealand (TSY)

Technical delivery partners

14. **Matteo Bigoni**, Head of Taxonomies, Climate Bonds Initiative
15. **Pip Band**, Director, Band Consulting

Centre for Sustainable Finance: Toitū Tahua (CSF)

16. **Jessica Desmond**, Head of Taxonomy
17. **Renzhu Zhang**, Taxonomy Manager



Apologies:

1. **Feng Hu**, International Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI); Founder and Director, silkroad.earth
 2. **Fonteyn Moses-Te Kani**, Pou Tiaki – Director Māori Strategy & Indigenous Inclusion, Westpac New Zealand
 3. **Greg Munford**, Senior Investment Strategist – Sustainable Investment, New Zealand Superannuation Fund
 4. **Joanna Silver**, Head of Sustainable Finance, Westpac New Zealand
 5. **Julia Langley**, Managing Director – Switzerland & New Zealand, Green Wave Advisory
 6. **Sean Fullan**, Resilience & Recovery Manager, Insurance Council of New Zealand (ICNZ)
 7. **Stefan Gray**, Manager – Strategic Climate Initiatives, Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ)
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Summary minutes

Opening karakia

Welcome and opening

- Competition law reminder
- Insights from Australian Sustainable Finance Institute (ASFI) sustainable finance summit

Discussed whole-of-farm activity (WOFA)

- The TEG reviewed proposals for both green and transition WOFA:
 - Members unanimously supported retaining a green WOFA, with a stringent threshold of 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare (tCO₂e/ha), based on net/absolute emissions
 - Members agreed on developing a transition WOFA with two pathways (both based on emissions intensity measures):
 - Option A: An ‘upper quartile’ approach to recognise efficient farmers who cannot yet meet the green threshold
 - Option B: a 2% emissions reduction target to recognise farmers making continuous improvements – considered aspirational yet achievable and subject to future updates as better data becomes available
 - Members noted challenges such as regional variation, mixed farming systems, and data gaps, and requested that Option A be redrafted to work for mixed farming
 - Members confirmed all current exclusions should remain, but requested a note be added to the criteria regarding the ability to rewet peatlands, in order to demonstrate that options exist for farmers with small areas of drained peatland
- The TEG highlighted that both green and transition WOFA should be recognised as taxonomy-aligned



Discussed other activity-specific proposals for climate change mitigation substantial contribution (SC) criteria

- The TEG reviewed activity-specific proposals and agreed on:
 - Thresholds for nutrient and livestock management remain as written, with efficient farms addressed through WOFA
 - Efficacy thresholds removed for methane/nitrous oxide inhibitors; inclusion in Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)'s emissions calculator or Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) approval will be sufficient
 - Efficient vehicles/equipment only eligible where no electric commercial alternatives exist; no sunset clause will apply for now, but this will be revisited when transport sector criteria are developed
 - Removal of the 'transition exotic plantation forest to indigenous ecosystem' and 'onsite wood processing' activities from the climate change mitigation criteria – though there is interest in supporting transition forests through climate change A&R criteria and/or within the standard afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation criteria
 - Continued development of criteria for a standalone biomass activity, for inclusion in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFLOU) and future energy sector taxonomies

Noted forestry definitions had been revised by cross TEG/TAG forestry sub-group

Do no significant harm (DNSH) revisions

- The TEG agreed to adopt the Australian Taxonomy language for the circular economy generic DNSH
- The TEG provided direction for CBI to update the pollution prevention and control generic DNSH
- The TEG endorsed the additional DNSH to protect arable land, with language as drafted

DNSH and minimum social safeguards (MSS) requirements

- The TEG agreed that MSS and DNSH will be optional in the near term to support uptake but are expected to become mandatory later (with exemptions for small businesses)
- They also agreed that the climate change mitigation SC criteria should incorporate necessary exclusions, particularly in forestry, to provide necessary protections while DNSH is optional
- The TEG emphasised the importance of clear communication on the temporary nature of optional requirements and called for an implementation strategy to support uptake and piloting

Climate change A&R process-based approach (PBA) and whitelist revisions endorsed by TEG for consultation

Climate change mitigation generic DNSH endorsed by TEG for consultation

Discussed approach to second public consultation

Next steps and closing karakia



Confirmed as a true and correct record by TEG Co-Chairs