

Purpose of the review	Topic themes	Number of Briefings and approaches adopted by departments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ To identify what went well with the process for the first round.</li> <li>▶ To identify what didn't go well.</li> <li>▶ To identify improvements for future rounds.</li> </ul>	Demographic change and associated implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 Briefings – four produced jointly between multiple agencies.</li> <li>• Topics ranged from broad to narrow (e.g. imprisonment to use of block chain technology).</li> <li>• Time horizons ranged from 10 – 40 years.</li> <li>• Range of consultation processes with varying response rates – from 2,800 to below 30.</li> <li>• Most Briefings drew on qualitative rather than quantitative analysis.</li> <li>• Only a minority of Briefings included analysis of options and their pros and cons.</li> </ul>
	Land use	
	Wellbeing	
	Data	
	Public participation in government	

## Key findings

### Developing the Briefing content

#### What went well

- Departments found the Policy Project's guidance very useful, and the other support provided (e.g. futures thinking workshops and touch base sessions).
- Developing the Briefings provided an opportunity for departments to give visibility to important topics across agencies and externally. They also influenced departments' workstreams and strategic intentions.
- The Briefings encouraged collaboration across agencies and with stakeholders, and provided the ability for people to build new skills within their agencies – futures thinking, engagement and communications.

#### What didn't go so well

- Deciding on the scope of the subject matter was challenging for some agencies.
- Two rounds of consultation – the subject matter and the draft Briefing – was a challenge for some departments.
- Public engagement was difficult for departments without established networks.
- Some departments didn't set out the engagement processes they undertook or the results of the consultation and how it had been incorporated into their final Briefings.
- A common challenge was trying to disconnect a department's thinking from day-to-day to a long-term one.
- The time, people and resources needed to meet the requirements was challenging. External events such as COVID-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle impacted heavily on timelines and the ability of departments to deliver their Briefings.
- Mixed views on the timing of the Reference Group's review of topics.

### Parliamentary scrutiny of the Briefings

#### What went well

- Select committee scrutiny of the Briefings was well received by most departments.
- The Office of the Clerk considered having the Briefings examined by Parliament an appropriate mechanism to ensure the Briefings were in the public domain.
- The Governance and Administration Committee did a good job setting out early feedback for other select committees about the inquiry process.
- The Policy Project's updates for the Governance and Administration Committee on the progress and timing of Briefings were helpful.

#### What didn't go so well

- Many departments were unable to meet the Standing Orders Committee's request for delivering the Briefings to Parliament no later than 30 June 2022 (i.e. in the middle of the Parliamentary term).
- The 90-day reporting time for select committees was too tight, given their already heavy workloads.

### The next round of Briefings

The Policy Profession Board, as part of its policy system leadership role, will assist in the next round of Long-term insights Briefings.

The Board will reach out to Deputy Chief Executives across the public service to engage with agencies in the New Year. The Board will:

1. Provide contextual information on New Zealand's key long run trends and challenges – this will come from some of the material in the first round of briefings as well as other key sources (e.g. fiscal forecasts, demographic projections).
2. Chair a series of discussions where agencies will be able to share and co-ordinate information and ideas for Briefing topics and approaches.

These activities will help build a better collective understanding of probable future trends, risks and opportunities; and ensure that over time this work improves the body of knowledge of how to increase New Zealand's long-term prosperity.

## Suggestions for improvements to the guidance and process

Make some minor additions to the guidance( e.g. examples of best practice and include a lessons learned section).

Ensure the efficacy and appropriateness of the timeframes for each step.

Incorporate tips for departments on what to expect at select committee examinations.

Consider a more centralised approach for agreeing the topics for the second round.

Consider removing the requirement in the Public Service Act 2020 for two rounds of public consultation on the subject matter and draft Briefing (i.e. making two rounds of consultation voluntary rather than mandatory).