Exploring the post-pandemic future for Aotearoa

COVID-19, arguably more than any other event in recent times, has brought an appreciation for things we have long taken for granted. It has jolted our consciousness around what we need and want as a country. As we head into a new year, and think about New Zealand's ongoing resilience and recovery, it is an opportune time to look towards future milestones and the pathway to reach them. A decade ahead is 2030 – the target year for the Sustainable Development Agenda and two decades ahead is the bicentenary of the Treaty of Waitangi, which will clearly be a time of great reflection. What do we want to achieve in this time?

We need a reset with a sense of purpose. Aotearoa New Zealand has a chance of achieving a positive future that most can describe: committed to individual freedoms and equality, with a vibrant free economy, strong social justice and social cohesion, environment sustainability and a strong cohesive democracy. But to get there we need to be specific about what goals we want to achieve and what necessary transformations are needed in the face of the multiple challenges of demographic, economic, social, cultural, environmental and extraordinary technological change. Such discussion needs to transcend as much as is possible partisan short-term politics. This is where Koi Tu can play a critical role – synthesising robust evidence across discipline of knowledge, raising questions, exploring the trade-offs and identifying the options ahead. In doing so, we seek to ensure effective dialogue between academia, the policy community, the private sector, NGOs and the
Already since being launched in March by the Governor General, we've published a number of reports exploring the challenges we face. Our most recent reports cover New Zealand's economic future and how the pandemic can be a catalyst for innovation, and a wider piece exploring the post-pandemic direction for Aotearoa. Both are highlighted in this newsletter.

We welcome your support. I encourage you to get in touch to explore how we can work together for the long-term benefit of New Zealand.

Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nu Ia.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

Sir Peter Gluckman, Director, Koi Tū

---

**Report looks at critical issues for our future**

We recently launched our eighth report in our *Future is Now* series - [Exploring the post-pandemic direction for Aotearoa New Zealand](#) at well-attended stakeholder events at the National Library in Wellington and at Old Government House in Auckland.

Written by Sir Peter Gluckman (pictured top left) and Koi Tu Deputy Director Anne Bardsley, the report had input from business, academic and government representatives, including Koi Tu Chair Bridget Coates (pictured right), John Allen, Rob Fyfe, Andrew Grant, Arthur Grimes, Stephen Goldson, Hermann Hauser, Rangimarie Hunia, Sir Christopher Mace, Tracey McIntosh, Richie Poulton, Hema Sridhar, Paul Spoonley and Evan Williams.

Its proposition is while we initially coped with the pandemic hitting our shores, its impacts on society are likely to be so wide-ranging and profound as to trigger a 'reset' – necessitating careful consideration of our national aspirations and direction as we look
beyond the current crisis into our medium- and long-term future.

The wide-ranging report covers some of the most critical issues we face, and how can we best address them including constitutional and public sector reform and demographic policy, sustainability issues and the future of education.

Read the report

---

**Complex conversations and deliberative democracy**

A key question for policymakers and politicians at all government levels is how to gain public support for policies that initially may be difficult and counterintuitive – and possibly costly at elections – yet beneficial in the long term.

**Dr Tatjana Buklijas, Associate Director - Academic** (above right), is leading a research project to develop an Aotearoa-specific approach for deliberative democracy. The model aims to combine the best elements of internationally tested deliberative democracy with kaupapa Maori processes and recognition of the specific needs of our bicultural and multi-ethnic society.

The research project involves a team from Koi Tu (pictured above from left) **Rochelle Menzies, Dr Anne Bardsley, Kristiann Allen**, and also **Dr Jacquie Bay** and **Dr Matire Harwood** (both not pictured). Funded by the [MBIE Smart Ideas Endeavour fund](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/), Koi Tu will engage with communities across Auckland, as well as professionals in local government and public organisations, to understand their views and experiences regarding participatory processes. Their input will help shape the 'complex conversations' approach which will be tested on a locally significant issue next year.

Learn more
Cohesive strategy needed for our economic future

New Zealand needs to refresh many aspects of its economic strategy including giving greater focus to innovation and the knowledge economy.

*New Zealand’s economic future: COVID-19 as a catalyst for innovation* calls for investment in Auckland as an innovation hub – together with building the concentrated expertise in other cities, boosting the country's national research and development (R&D) spend, and encouraging multinational corporations to invest in New Zealand R&D as part of a cohesive strategy to reset our economic future in the wake of COVID-19.

The lead authors are economists from three different universities – Dr Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy, Professor Arthur Grimes, Professor Tim Maloney – as well as Dr Anne Bardsley and Sir Peter Gluckman. They say New Zealand has a unique opportunity to develop comprehensive economic policies that addresses the role of cities, housing and taxation, and demographic and workforce issues.

[Read the report here](#)
Science diplomacy can help confront pandemic challenges

As part of the Frontiers Policy Labs initiative, Sir Peter Gluckman spoke with Prof Jean Claude Burgelman from Free University of Brussels about scientific advice and policymaking in the context of the COVID-19 response, as well as how science diplomacy can help with confronting the challenges of the pandemic.

New hi-tech police tools raise questions

NZ Police are piloting a range of new technologies. There are many unanswered questions - why they are being used, why they are deemed necessary, and whether they risk infringing on human rights or privacy.

Koi Tu Research Fellow Andrew Chen (pictured) and Associate Director Kristiann Allen wrote an editorial in the Spinoff following the NZ Police's review of emergent technologies.

They suggest police could consider moratoriums on using more controversial technologies, or "red lines" that they will not cross. This is particularly important where technologies have been shown to have significant error rates or bias that disproportionately affects certain groups of people, and where combining that with the power of the police may be dangerous.
Aligning our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an overarching framework was one of the key recommendations in Dr Anne Bardsley's opening plenary keynote speech at the recent Climate Change + Business Conference.

She says the SDGs recognise that environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, social sustainability and individual and institutional health are all intricately linked to each other.

"The multi-layered impacts of the pandemic cut across all sectors, highlighting the complex interconnections within our society, and revealed sources of systemic risk in these connections. We suggest one possible approach is the establishment of a sustainability commission, which could help ensure policy coherence for long-term goals – looking across the whole system for mutually reinforcing policies, and considering tradeoffs where these must occur, and developing a roadmap for sustainability."

You can read Anne's speech here or watch the video here.

INGSA news - successful bid and new policy tracker

**International Public Policy Observatory** - Koi Tu hosts the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA). Through the leadership of Dr Tatjana Buklijas and Kristiann Allen, INGSA is part of a successful bid to participate in the newly established International Public Policy Observatory. Funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Observatory aims to provide research and evidence to assist policy makers in formulating effective strategies to tackle the social, economic and public health impacts of Covid-19.

**INGSA Evidence-to-Policy Tracker** – INGSA recently released its first preliminary report on data collected in their COVID-19 Evidence-to-Policy Tracker. Through the hard work of a global network of rapporteurs, the Tracker amassed an extensive dataset on evidence flows in the early stages of the pandemic. The preliminary report used this data to highlight some examples of how evidence was used to inform public policy choices in a range of countries.

Read the speech

Read the report
About Koi Tu: The Centre for Informed Futures

Koi Tu is an independent, non-partisan think tank and research centre at the University of Auckland. We undertake research and generate knowledge and tools to address long-term issues that challenge our future, arising from rapid and far-reaching social, economic, technological and environmental change.

Help create an informed future

We work with individuals and organisations focused on the long-term development of New Zealand. We focus on issues where trustworthy and robust analysis can make a real difference.

To discuss how you can work with or support us, please contact:
Professor Sir Peter Gluckman
Director, Koi Tu: The Centre for Informed Futures
Phone: +64 21 775 568
Email: pd.gluckman@auckland.ac.nz

Thank you to our sponsors

Anita Baldauf, David Levene Foundation, Norman Barry Foundation, The Tindall Foundation, Andrew and Elle Grant, The Gluckman Family, Kelliher Trust, Robert Lerner (Modena Trust), and Bernard Sabrier.