

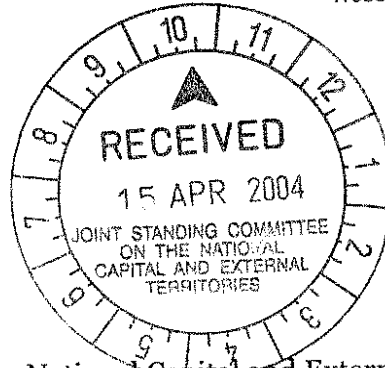


The New Zealand Antarctic Institute | T +64 3 358 0200  
International Antarctic Centre, Orchard Road | F +64 3 358 0211  
Private Bag 4745, Christchurch, New Zealand  
Website: www.antarcticanz.govt.nz

File Reference: 0210

30 March 2004

Senator Ross Lightfoot  
Chairman  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
The Commonwealth Parliament  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA



SUBMISSION ..... 25 .....

13 APR 2004

Dear Senator

### **INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIA'S ANTARCTIC PROGRAM**

Thank you for your letter seeking information on how New Zealand administers our Antarctic programme. I have prepared a response to your areas of interest:

1. *The role government agencies, universities, the private sector and others play in the Antarctic Program.*

New Zealand's Antarctic Program is separated into:

- A policy and governmental purchasing arm - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT);
- A logistical support arm - Antarctica New Zealand and New Zealand Defence Force;
- A research funding arm - the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) and the Marsden Fund; and
- A science provider arm - Crown Research Institutes and Universities.

Along with these specific organisations New Zealand has an Officials Antarctic Committee which consists of representatives from all governmental organisations involved with Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues.

2. *The structure of the organisation responsible for facilitating the Antarctic Program.*

Antarctica New Zealand is responsible for this function. The details of the organisation and budget are presented in the Annual Report (enclosed).

3. *The ways in which the Antarctic Program promotes international collaborations.*

Antarctica New Zealand and MFAT are actively involved in international collaboration through:

- The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) participation;
- The Council of Managers of Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) participation;
- Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) representation;
- The Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) chairing;
- The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) representation.

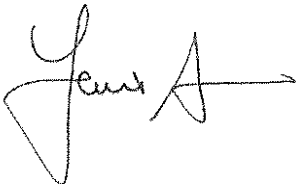
Along with this representation the scientists from the Crown Research Institutes and the Universities are closely involved with SCAR and CEP collaborations.

4. *How the budget for the Antarctic program is allocated.*

The budget for Antarctica New Zealand is separate from the science funding budgets of FRST and the Universities. However, there is strong communication between the agencies involved to make sure that appropriate spending on logistics and science is undertaken. New science initiatives are funded through new budget bids directly to Treasury. In the next financial year logistics and science funding will be bidding to Treasury jointly for the first time.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Sanson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lou Sanson  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Encl

# New Zealand's Antarctic Science System

## Introduction

This is a discussion document on an effective way of managing Antarctic and Ross Sea region science for New Zealand. The system suggested in this document assumes the current system for science funding will continue to exist. This is a living document.

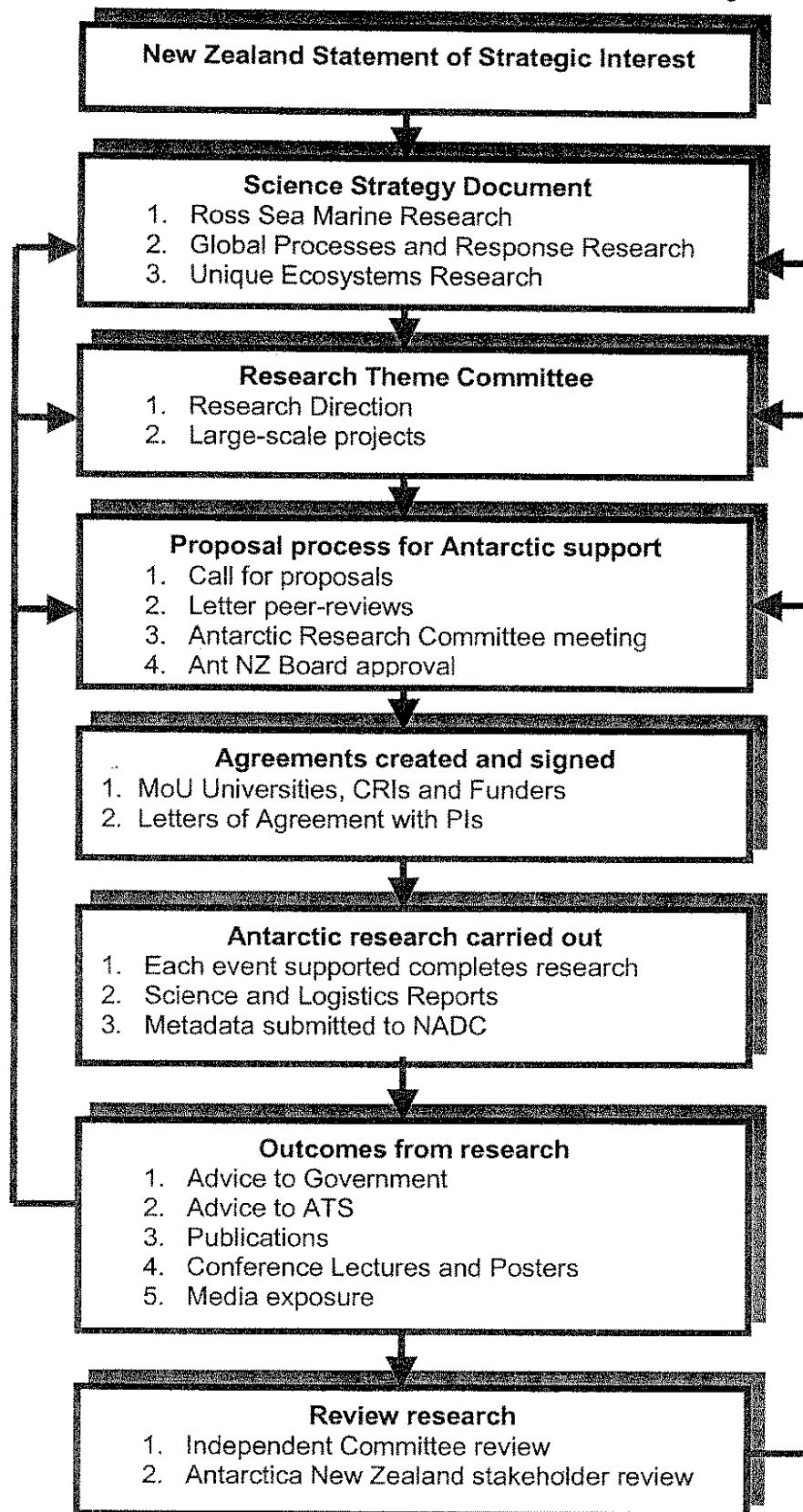
There are some major assumptions, which the plan is built from. The assumptions worked with are:

1. Antarctica New Zealand will maintain its role in directing the national science related to Antarctic and Ross Sea region activities
2. The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Strategy document will continue to be produced by Antarctica New Zealand.
3. The government's strategic interests, recently revised and published, form the basis for New Zealand's activities in Antarctica and the Ross Sea region.
4. FRST funding will stay with the portfolio scheme, thus making any all-in-one FRST / ANTNZ bidding round impossible because each portfolio comes up at a different time.
5. Marsden fund will continue and that only the highest quality science will be supported by this fund. The amount of Antarctic funding will increase at the same rate as the Marsden fund growth.
6. MFish funding will continue and Antarctica New Zealand will be part of the review process.
7. A quality check on Antarctic science will continue to be needed to maintain a high standard for New Zealand's Antarctic and Ross Sea region activities.
8. The large-scale projects that have recently been identified will continue in the future (LGP, ANDRILL, BioRoss).

A proposed flowchart is provided for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean science system. Three research theme leaders will be selected to increase communication across science events and help direct Antarctic research. Large-scale projects will be raised through this committee of research theme leaders. The system has a feedback loop through an independent review process. The independent review panel will enhance the outcomes of the research by direct recommendations to the research planned, recommendations to the **Research Theme Committee** and advice to the next strategy document.

Three documents, outlined below, will be created to implement these changes and inform all the researchers, funding providers and international collaborators. Each document has a distinct target, lifetime and audience.

# Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science System



## **A Three-Document Plan**

### **A. Science Strategy Document (every 5 years)**

1. This is the "Why Document", the researchers should read this document and craft research projects around the government's objectives outlined in the strategy.
2. This is also an opportunity to remind government, where New Zealand's strengths are.
3. The document will be short and direct.
4. The strategy will be a strategic document not just something for everyone.
5. The strategy will look at where we should be on a 5 to 10 year timescale.
6. There must be a direct connection to the Government's strategic interests document.
7. Table of Contents
  - a. Introduction (1 page)
  - b. Why Study the Antarctic and Southern Ocean? (3 pages)
    - i. National Interests
    - ii. International Representation
    - iii. Global Science
  - c. Science Themes (6 pages)
    - i. Ross Sea Marine Research
    - ii. Global Processes and Response Research
    - iii. Unique Ecosystems Research
  - d. Implementation (2 pages)
    - i. Proposal process
    - ii. Principles and priorities

### **B. Proposal Guide Document (every 3 years)**

1. The document will provide information on the New Zealand Antarctic and Southern Ocean science system. Outline of all the science funding agencies, science providers and science users.
2. The document will include the Government's strategic interests as an appendix.
3. The document will have the guidelines for proposals sent to Antarctica New Zealand, the terms of reference for the referees and all associated documents to the proposal process.
4. Proposals will be for three seasons of Antarctic research (3 years).
5. Interim bidding rounds will be called for between the large 3-year proposal process.

### **C. International Information Document (every year)**

1. The document will display what New Zealand science is doing in Antarctica – based on accepted proposals from bidding round.
2. The document will be a coherent version of the Handbook, relating all of the research proposed for the future year into the three research themes outlined in the strategy.
3. The document will be used to show the world New Zealand's proposed research including the connections to large-scale programmes.
4. The document will emphasise international connections and collaborations.

## **New Zealand Statement of Strategic Interest (2002)**

In 2002 New Zealand renewed its Statement of Strategic Interests. The revised statement states that New Zealand is committed to – “conservation of the intrinsic and wilderness values of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, for the benefit of the world community and for present and future generations of New Zealanders. This will be reflected in active and responsible stewardship, under the Antarctic Treaty System that promotes New Zealand’s interests in:

- National and international peace and security through a commitment to keeping Antarctica peaceful, nuclear free, and its environment protected;
- Continued influence in Antarctic governance through maintaining an effective role in the Antarctic Treaty System, and maintaining its long term interest, commitment to and credible presence in the Ross Dependency;
- Conserving, protecting, and understanding the biodiversity of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, in particular the biodiversity of the Ross Sea region, including promotion, protection and management of representative special areas, and enhancing biosecurity;
- Conservation and sustainable management of the marine living resources of the Southern Ocean, and in particular the Ross Sea, in accordance with CCAMLR and the Antarctica Environmental Protocol, and within the context supporting strong environmental standards and sustainable economic benefits;
- Supporting and where appropriate leading, high quality Antarctic and Southern Ocean science that benefits from the unique research opportunities provided by Antarctica;
- Demonstrating and advocating for best practice in environmental stewardship and all other activities throughout Antarctica, and in particular the Ross Sea region;
- Ensuring that all activity is undertaken in a manner consistent with Antarctica’s status as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science.”