

Sustainability Matters

7th June 2018

A fortnightly selection of topical **news and views** about economic, social and environmental issues.
Designed especially for accountants and those who use the services of accountants.

Sustainability Matters is;

- Compiled and published by Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*, providers of specialist services relating to sustainability and business support. **Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children.**

If Humanity has Changed the Climate by Mistake, Can We Change it With Intent?

"At Interface, we're convinced a fundamental change needs to happen in our global response to climate change. We need to stop just thinking about how to limit the damage caused by climate change – and start thinking about how to create a climate fit for life.

"After decades of hard work, Interface is poised to reach its Mission Zero® goals by 2020.

"Climate Take Back™ is our new mission, and we want to share it with the world. We commit to running our business in a way that creates a climate fit for life – and we call on others to do the same.

More: www.interface.com/EU/en-GB/campaign/climate-take-back/Climate-Take-Back-en_GB plus www.eco-business.com/opinion/imaginings-of-the-commons/

Source: eco-Business.com, 30th May 2018. ❖

It Takes Passion and Vision to Create Change

"His company has been liquidated, his mobile milking shed sold for a song. But Glen Herud is not giving up on his ethical milk mission.

"Last month [April], we hit the wall and shut the doors – but our customers encouraged us to go on.

"I founded the Happy Cow Milk Company in 2012, and my mission was to create a more ethical and sustainable dairy model.

"In April, I faced the hard reality that I couldn't do it. I was out of money and out of energy. But when I announced I was shutting down, something amazing happened; this passionate community of supporters told me not to give up.

"People heard about my story and wrote from all around the world asking how they could help make Happy Cow rise again. After my article for *The Spinoff*, our Facebook following increased by 3,994% and more than 6,000 people signed up to our email list. The story went global and I've fielded messages of support from Sweden, Finland, Singapore, China, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and the USA.

"This reassures me that people are into sustainable agriculture, and it's not just millennials or urban professionals. It's across all demographics – young, old, high income, low income, politically left and politically right. I feel this is part of a mood sweeping across the world where people are saying they're not comfortable with some aspects of industrial agriculture.

More: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/business/26-05-2018/your-support-brought-me-to-tears-glen-herud-on-life-after-his-happy-cow-story-went-viral/>

Source: Simon Harvey, LinkedIn, 29th May 2018. ❖

SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

At another pre-formative meeting held 12th June 2001 at Deloitte, NZICA offered free use of its meeting facilities and if it wished to go NZ-wide their video-link facilities could also be made available at no charge. ❖

Low-emissions Economy – Draft Report

"How can New Zealand transition to a low-emissions economy?"

"The [NZ] Government asked the Productivity Commission to identify options for how New Zealand can reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions through a transition to a low-emissions economy, while at the same time continuing to grow income and wellbeing.

"The draft report makes 140 findings, 50 recommendations and asks 11 questions.

"Moving to a low-emissions economy will require:

- Getting emissions pricing right, to send the right signals for investment;
- Harnessing the full potential of innovation and supporting investment in low-emissions activities and technologies;
- Creating laws and institutions that endure over time and act as a commitment device for future governments; and
- Ensuring other supportive regulations and policies are in place (including to encourage an inclusive transition).

There are also an 'At a Glance summary', a Briefing and commissioned modelling reports.

NOTE! Feedback on Draft Report due by Fri 8th June.

More: www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiry-content/3254?stage=3 has a link. 499 pages, 6.52Mb [Dated April 2018, released 27th April]

Source: Karen McWilliams, CA ANZ, 23rd May 2018

Editor: Some might say the report is based pretty much on 'business as usual' rather than radical shifts. ❖

Systems Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Personal Resilience

By Richard Heinberg, originally published by Resilience.org, 24th May 24, 2018

"It's not hard to identify the problems the world faces right now. In fact, in this hyper-connected time, the challenge is not access to information – it's making sense of it, of understanding the true sources of our great dilemma, without feeling burdened, depressed, or overwhelmed by it all. Unfortunately, as humans, our reaction to those feelings is often denial, distraction, and paralysis. Which is why this month we're focusing on personal resilience.

"As Richard Heinberg expresses in his latest blog post, in addition to staying informed, we all need to take care of ourselves so that we can continue to act effectively. ... We'll each need to do inner work in order to accomplish the outer work of what he calls the 'great simplification'.

More: www.resilience.org/stories/2018-05-24/systems-thinking-critical-thinking-and-personal-resilience/

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 1st June 2018.

Editor: This is a lengthy thought piece – sit down with your favourite refreshment before you start to read and consider. ❖

Expert Panel Critical of Government's Climate Change Planning

"Funding for climate change adaptation is largely non-existent, government planning is ad hoc, and the data to inform decisions is often inaccessible.

"These are just a few of the criticisms provided by an independent panel of experts today.

"The Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group report, title *Adapting to Climate Change in New Zealand*, recommended a 100-year planning timeframe to provide a long-term perspective.

"It noted while there was a lot of information on climate change, it was often 'not necessarily the most appropriate information'.

"We also recommend ... nationally-consistent data sets are developed, as well as nationally-standarised projections and scenarios,' the report read.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/104159379/expert-panel-critical-of-governments-climate-change-planning plus www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/adapting-climate-change-new-zealand-recommendations-climate-change 60 pages, 3.73Mb → Page 46 for Immediate actions and Page 51 for Final Word, and http://www2.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12057342

Source: *Carbon News*, 24th May 2018 and *NZ Herald*, page A17, 25th May 2018. ❖

Conscience and Resistance

"Until recent years, the sound of rain has always filled me with a sense of blessing. Rain drumming on the tin roof of a Tennessee farmhouse, my first home. Rain pattering on the canopy of oak and maple forests in Ohio, on forests of pine in Maine and Vermont, on reeds and rushes in Louisiana bayous, on spongy nurse logs in Oregon, on tundra and stone in Alaska.

"From earliest childhood, I would tingle with anticipation at the rumble of an oncoming storm. I would shiver with pleasure as rain tapped on windows and gurgled through gutters, and I would dash outside to rejoice in the thrum of rain on my umbrella or on the hood of my slicker. I heard in these sounds a promise of green grass, sweet corn, flowing creeks. It was the music of abundance. When preachers in the rural Methodist churches I attended as a boy spoke of grace, I thought of rain.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/conscience-and-resistance/>

Source: Orion, 1st June 2018

Editor: Very long – sit down with your favourite refreshment and savour the opportunity. ❖

Integrated Reporting Training

"Proxima, the only <IR> approved training course practitioners in New Zealand are mounting another of their <IR> courses in July in partnership with BSD, an International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) Foundation Partner.

"Their sustainability and integrated reporting courses are designed for sustainability practitioners, reporting managers and those who want to successfully measure, communicate and manage sustainability issues using the world's most recognized sustainability reporting frameworks

"Powerful benefits of Integrated Reporting for most types of organisations include; effective communication, better decisions, integrated thinking, strategic success and leadership.

When/Where: 25th/26th July at Deloitte in Auckland

More: <http://www.proxima.global/integrated-reporting-training/>

Source: Simon Harvey, 23rd May 2018. ❖

A Healthy Economy Should be Designed to Thrive, Not Grow

Kate Raworth, TED 2018

"What would a sustainable, universally beneficial economy look like? 'Like a doughnut', says Oxford economist Kate Raworth. In a stellar, eye-opening talk, she explains how we can move countries out of the hole – where people are falling short on life's essentials – and create regenerative, distributive economies that work within the planet's ecological limits.

More:

www.ted.com/talks/kate_raworth_a_healthy_economy_should_be_designed_to_thrive_not_grow/ 15:45 with 700,840 views as at 6th June 2018, See footnotes, transcript and reading list which includes *Biomimcry in Action* and *Think Like a Commoner*.

Source: Simon Harvey, LinkedIn 21st May 2018. ❖

Beyond GDP: Measuring New Zealand's Wellbeing Progress

"In this article, the second in the series, we and Victoria University of Wellington's School of Government discuss the increased focus on wellbeing as a measure of progress and as an objective of public policy. We look at defining and measuring wellbeing, review the current state of wellbeing measurement in New Zealand and conclude with a proposed wellbeing index for New Zealand.

More: <https://www2.deloitte.com/nz/stateofthestate> 10 pages, 1.46Mb + appendices and bibliography in an additional 5 page PDF

Source: Tim Marshall, 28th May 2018.

Editor: A very timely, thoughtful, and easy to read article by Joey Au and Girol Karacaoglu of Victoria University of Wellington. ❖

Feeding Cows Seaweed Cuts 99% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Their Burps

"Feeding seaweed to cows could slash the amount of climate change-inducing methane emissions from their burps.

"Preliminary research has indicated a small amount of marine algae added to cattle food can reduce methane emissions from cattle gut microbes by as much as 99 per cent.

"Now, scientists in California are hoping to help farmers meet strict new emissions targets by performing the first ever tests of seaweed feed in live dairy cows.

"While their early results are yet to be released, team leader Professor Ermias Kebreab at the University of California, Davis, said their initial experiments were "very surprising and promising".

"Results are not final, but so far we are seeing substantial emission reductions," he said. ...

"In an attempt to curb this source, California has introduced regulations calling for dairy farmers to cut methane emissions from their 1.7 million cows by 40 per cent over the next decade. ...

The work builds on initial studies carried out in 2015 by a team of Australian researchers that indicated a small amount of seaweed practically eliminated methane emissions from cow gut microbes in lab conditions. ...

More: www.independent.co.uk/environment/cows-seaweed-methane-burps-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-climate-change-research-a8368911.html

Source: *Carbon News*, 31st May 2018

Editor: This mirrors the finding of a NZ farmer several years ago – what happened since? ❖

Top Tips for Finance Teams

"The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) has released *Top Tips for Finance Teams* booklet to help discussions within organisations as they develop their approach to adopting the TCFD** recommendations. The practical approaches and suggestions are based on the experiences of early adopters, as demonstrated during recent A4S workshops in London, Singapore, Sydney and Toronto.

** TaskForce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

More:

www.accountingforsustainability.org/en/activities/tcfd/tcfd-guide.html which has examples of reports, plus www.fsb-tcfd.org

Source: Karen McWilliams, CA ANZ, LinkedIn, 31st May 2018. ❖

Seismic Thrift: Welcome to the Shopping Centre for Recycled Goods

"In the Swedish city of Eskilstuna, 100 kilometres west of Stockholm, shoppers are flocking to a mall with a twist.

"ReTuna Återbruksgalleria is a shopping centre dedicated entirely to repaired and up-cycled goods.

"It opened in 2015, and distinguishes itself from what you might call an upscale yard sale by bringing together other vital mall elements: there are 14 shops, a restaurant, an exhibition area, conference facilities and even a training college for studying recycling.

"As outlined on the Make Wealth History blog, staff at the recycling depot intercept and sort incoming goods as they are dropped off, putting aside those that can be repaired or refurbished.

"These items are then passed on to workshops to be renovated and sold in specialist outlets for everything from furniture and building materials to computers and clothes.

"The circular economy: Shoppers at ReTuna Återbruksgalleria have reason to feel good about their purchases – they're contributing to the circular economy, an alternative industrial model that encourages us to do more with less as the world's resources become increasingly scarce. ...

More: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/04/recycled-shopping-centre-sweden-plastics-circular-economy/> 22.5million views as at 1st June, plus <https://www.facebook.com/worldeconomicforum/videos/10154827764046479/>

Source: Craig Skinner, Facebook, 1st June 2018. ❖

2018 End of Childhood Report

"More than half the world's children – 1.2 billion – live in countries affected by widespread poverty, conflict and discrimination against girls, threatening their chance for a childhood. These children are excluded from learning, and denied basics like healthcare and even food. These children are stripped of their innocence and robbed of their childhood – and the future they deserve.

"To commemorate International Children's Day, Save the Children publishes our global report, *The Many Faces of Exclusion*, which details factors which force children to grow up too soon, such as early pregnancy, extreme violence and living in poverty. The report's End of Childhood Index reveals many countries have made progress for children since last year, yet conditions in several others appear significantly worse. Learn more about why childhoods are threatened around the world.

More: <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/end-of-childhood> 48 pages, 1.57Mb, plus for USA: www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/resource-library/end-of-childhood 32 pages, 1.93Mb

Source: Save the Children, 31st May 2018. ❖

Resilience Reader: Essential Resources for an Era of Upheaval

"Our most recent book, *The Community Resilience Reader* is now available online for free.

"Post Carbon Institute does not disappoint with *The Community Resilience Reader*. The book offers a wealth of ideas and examples for building community resilience in all aspects of society. Post Carbon offers views that may be considered radical to many – but that's their approach, and I love it. I wholeheartedly believe my undergraduate students will greatly benefit from [this book] as I have."

—Ann Scheerer, Sustainability Double Degree Program, Oregon State University

"The sustainability challenges of yesterday have become today's resilience crises. National and global efforts have failed to stop climate change, transition from fossil fuels, and reduce inequality. We must now confront these and other increasingly complex problems by building resilience at the community level. But what does that mean in practice, and how can it be done in a way that's effective and equitable?"

"The *Community Resilience Reader* offers a new vision for creating resilience, through essays by leaders in such varied fields as science, policy, community building, and urban design. It combines a fresh look at the challenges humanity faces in the 21st century, the essential tools of resilience science, and the wisdom of activists, scholars, and analysts working with community issues on the ground. It shows that resilience is a process, not a goal; how resilience requires learning to adapt but also preparing to transform; and that resilience starts and ends with the people living in a community. Despite the formidable challenges we face, *The Community Resilience Reader* shows building strength and resilience at the community level is crucial and possible.

"From Post Carbon Institute, the producers of the award-winning *The Post Carbon Reader*, *The Community Resilience Reader* is a valuable resource for students, community leaders, and concerned citizens.

More: <http://reader.resilience.org/read/> [Registration required] Online only unless purchase e-book or paperback. October 2017, 18 chapters, 336 pages, plus <https://islandpress.org/books/community-resilience-reader>

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 30th May 2018. ❖

Plastic Waste In to Homes Costing US\$280

"... maybe, just maybe, longevity could be one key element of building affordable housing, at least in some parts of the world, where poverty and plastic waste seem to go together. A startup in Mexico, EcoDomum, is using plastic waste as a raw material for creating low-cost wall and roof panels, and a subsidised housing program underwrites some of the cost, with families only paying US\$280 for a 430 ft² dwelling.

"The panels, which measure about 8' long x 4' wide x 1" thick, are said to be not only durable and impermeable, but affordable as well, and produced at the rate of 120/day. That works out to some 5.5 tons of plastic waste being converted from trash to building materials every day, from one small plant.

More: [January 2016] <https://unreasonable.is/ecodomum-story/> plus <http://en.ecodom.mx/> and www.treehugger.com/tiny-houses/company-turns-plastic-waste-affordable-housing-mexico.html plus <https://www.facebook.com/WeNeedThisbyattn/videos/201552493679957/> with 55M views as at 29th May 2018

Source: Craig Skinner, 29th May 2018

Editor: Helpful to NZ in the midst of its dual housing and plastics crisis? ❖

Food Index Calls Meat and Fish Companies Worth \$152 Billion 'High Risk'

"A new food index analysed 60 global intensive farming companies on health, environmental, and social issues and categorised 36 of them as 'high risk'. Those large companies worth \$152 billion include major suppliers to fast food chains, according to the Collier FAIRR Protein Producer Index published today [30th May].

"The Farm Animal Investment Risk & Return (FAIRR) Initiative is a \$5.9 trillion investor network which seeks to raise awareness of the material impacts factory farming and poor animal welfare can have on investment portfolios.

"FAIRR analysed major protein producers on their management and disclosure of nine ESG risk factors: GHG emissions, deforestation and biodiversity loss, water scarcity and water use, antibiotics, waste and water pollution, working conditions, food safety, sustainable proteins, and animal welfare. These factors were identified using previous FAIRR assessment, top-down analysis, and bottom-up analysis.

"The Index shows two-thirds of the companies are either not managing critical risks or are failing to disclose basic information.

"All the sustainability challenges analysed by this Index are complex ones which require long-term solutions. In all cases the first step for low ranking companies is to improve disclosure and to make sure these are issues being measured so they can be managed. From here, there is then a crucial step for low ranking companies to learn from the best practice and innovation identified in this report, and to try to emulate this within their own business models.

"Both regulators and consumers are displaying broad trends towards requiring healthier food and food that is produced in a more sustainable way – generating less emissions, less water use, and reducing biodiversity loss.

"We have started to see traditional meat and fish companies like Tyson Foods and Cargill diversifying into alternative proteins, for example with Tyson buying a stake in Beyond Meat, and this could well be the start of an industry-wide trend.

More: www.environmentalleader.com/2018/05/meat-and-fish-companies-index/ plus <https://index.fairr.org/> Only 5 of the 60 companies are prepared to capitalise on opportunities in the rapidly growing alternative (non-meat or dairy) proteins sector. The alternative protein market is expected to reach \$5.2 billion by 2020.

Source: *Environmental Leader*, 31st May 2018

Editor: There are important warning signals here for the NZ and Australian food (protein) producing sectors. ❖

Kiwi Couple Launch Green Businesses in Indonesia to Protect Sea Turtles

A couple from Taranaki with their two young children set up a tourism business after the devastating loss of life and infrastructure in Aceh Indonesia. Working with the local people they have encouraged them to cease illegally taking turtle eggs. They are now embarking on a project to source organic certified coconuts and the local manufacture of value added products. This will further encourage the local people to desist from harvesting turtle eggs. The couple are currently seeking \$600,000 of loans and equity to establish the factory.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/business/92211125/kiwi-couple-launch-green-businesses-in-indonesia-to-protect-sea-turtles plus <https://www.aluan.co/> and <https://www.pledgeme.co.nz/projects/5589-aluan-make-good-with-coconut>

Source: Rob Skinner, 5th June 2018 [Rob met the couple at an Impact Investment event in Singapore on 4th June]

Editor: I have a 20 page 'pitch pack' ❖

"Backward, Forward, Outward, Inward" the Four Dimensions of Materiality

Assessment

"How to take materiality beyond reporting: Informing strategy and engaging with internal and external stakeholders.

"Originally adopted from the world of finance, frameworks such as GRI promote materiality assessments to help companies take a backward look to prioritise what's to be included in their sustainability reporting.

"Materiality is invaluable in forward-thinking too though! Fisher & Paykel Healthcare and thinkstep explore the additional dimensions of materiality assessment.

"How the UN Global Goals are now increasingly used to future proof materiality assessment and strategy development is another topic of the 30 minute 'Straight from the Horse's Mouth' webinar'.

"Rachel Reynolds, Senior Communications Manager at Fisher & Paykel Healthcare shares how materiality assessment is helping Fisher and Paykel Healthcare move toward to GRI and Integrated Reporting.

"Barbara Nebel, from thinkstep, reflects on the four dimensions of materiality assessment by borrowing the lyrics 'Backward, forward, outward, inward' of the Caucus Race in Alice in Wonderland.

When/Where: 3:00-3:30pm NZST, Thurs 14th June, webinar

More:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/830903527325758211>

Source: Mathias Neberl, thinkstep, 5th June 2018. ❖

The Muddling of Price and Value

"It's important to remember that within the current, business-as-usual economic system of commodification, this tree [a 5,000 year old cryptomeria tree in Japan] could be cut down and sold off for peanuts, without ever recognising the value that flows from it while it stands.

"A natural capital approach works to illuminate this hidden value, whether it be economic, social, environmental, cultural or spiritual value, and whether this value is expressed in qualitative, quantitative or monetary terms.

"Crucially, we are not saying we should simply pay a little bit more in order to justify the destruction of Jōmon Sugi. We're saying it is worth far more standing than it is felled.

"The point is price and value are not interchangeable concepts, and in this case, a traditional price does not reflect the immense value of this natural wonder.

"The muddling of the concepts of price (the quantity of one thing that is exchanged or demanded in barter or sale for another) and value (relative importance or worth), and the misuse of the concept of a 'price', cuts to the heart of much of the criticism and vitriol hurled at proponents of a natural capital approach.

"George Monbiot writes that 'unless something is redeemable for money, a pound or dollar sign placed in front of it is senseless...either you are lining it up for sale, in which case the exercise is sinister, or you are not, in which case it is meaningless.'

"But this is a non sequitur.

More: <https://medium.com/@NatCapCoalition/dear-george-we-cannot-take-a-monoculture-approach-to-the-conservation-of-the-natural-world-42aa2f37d27e> plus www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/15/pr-ice-natural-world-destruction-natural-capital

Source: Natural Capital Coalition, 29th May 2018. ❖

We Are On Course to Double the Combined Effort of 11,000 Years in the Next 25 Years

"Yes, you read that [the title] right. At present course, and with predicted continued growth trajectories, the world is set to nearly double the combined energy and materials it has taken humanity the past 11,000 years to amass.

"Clearly this course is unsustainable as we have finite resources and once we've gobbled it all up at our current ferocious pace, that's it. The writer of this excellent piece suggests a major financial recalibration is inevitable – read worldwide global depression – the research is pointing to a reduction in advanced countries' GDP by an order of 25-40% within the next two decades. The author calls this the Great Simplification, coming our way, and suggests three strategies for dealing with this proactively:

- (1) Empower individuals to make better choices during the Great Simplification (which might be managing in a carless future, finding ways to heat our homes, learning how to repair things);
- (2) Working with small groups and NGOs to help them act as catalysts for positive change – this is where ECO and other groups come in, and
- (3) Change what is accepted in our cultural conversation to be more reality based – i.e. learning several physical skills, so that is part of our culture (as it was until very recently) and not simply what's happening on social media today (which is where we have suddenly got to as a global culture) or where to go on holiday or what's the latest fashion.

"There is nothing intrinsically wrong with those things, it's just they have come to dominate to the exclusion of all else, and they don't help with our survival.

"This article is a tremendous resource expressed in plain language and can be turned to again and again for inspiration and useful language in our work, and it seeks to inspire and not to threaten. The challenges are enormous, but we cannot be overwhelmed by them - but we need to change our thinking, and fast.

More: <https://mailchi.mp/de2fe9c53307/tieke-eco-alerts-events-9-may-817289?e=e02a97980b> plus <https://mahb.stanford.edu/blog/where-are-we-going/>

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 30th May 2018. ❖

Divesting from Fossil Fuels – 890 Institutions

"KiwiSaver provider, Simplicity, announced this morning [5th June] it will be fully divesting its funds from fossil fuel companies, along with other unethical industries. It is the 890th institution globally to divest!

"This announcement comes after a two-year long campaign by 350 Aotearoa, including calling for Simplicity to require the fund they use for their international investments, Vanguard International, to add fossil fuels to their list of excluded industries for their ethical fund for New Zealand.

"Pressure mounted last month, when we released an updated version of our KiwiSaver ranking table, 'Does your KiwiSaver Fund Climate Change?', which had many Simplicity members calling for Simplicity to commit to full fossil fuel divestment. Standby for another updated version now.

"... Simplicity now acknowledges 'excluding investments in these additional areas is a global trend which makes sense for our members...They should receive better returns, and it's what KiwiSaver members want.' (-Sam Stubbs, Simplicity CEO) ...

More: <http://world.350.org/nz/files/2018/05/Simplicity-Kiwisaver-shareable-Powerpoint-direct-investments.png> plus <https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/commitments/>

Source: 350 Aotearoa, 5th June 2018. ❖

Alternative Protein Reports Published

"The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Plant & Food Research have today [1st June] released their joint report: *The evolution of plant protein – assessing consumer response*.

"The report was commissioned to assess consumer responses to protein and highlight the potential impacts to the New Zealand agricultural industry.

"New Zealand's social, environmental, and economic well-being is linked to New Zealand's ability to supply the rest of the world with protein. New Zealand's animal-based protein export revenue alone accounts for 60% of New Zealand's total primary exports. This demand will grow as the global population is set to increase to 8.1 billion by 2025.

"This is the first exploratory piece of work MPI has done in this area. The report explores how consumers have become more aware of the long-term impacts of food production and signals change for traditional animal protein producers. ...

"New Zealand has about 2 million hectares of land which could be switched to horticulture, increasing the area under horticultural production tenfold. [Page 35]

"Improving the resilience of New Zealand's agri-food industry will require us to decrease our reliance on animal-based production by accomplishing an increase in the variety of products derived and broadening our participation in other non-traditional protein value chains. [Page 35]

More: www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/alternative-protein-reports-published/ 40 pages, 28.68Mb, plus <https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/new-zealand-needs-develop-more-alternative-protein-products-report-says-fr-p-216135>

Source: *Carbon News*, 5th June 2018.

Editor: The report foreshadows major land use changes in NZ and is very timely report in the context of the Productivity Commission's draft *Low-emissions Economy* report for which submissions close 8th June 2018. ❖

Rebooting Recycling – What can Aotearoa Do?

"A discussion paper presented by the Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ). The New Zealand recycling sector is calling on the Government to take strong and positive action to avert our national recycling crisis, reboot recycling, and create a circular economy in Aotearoa.

"Today [31st May], the sector released a discussion document titled *Rebooting Recycling - What can Aotearoa do?* The document outlines a range of both short and long-term actions the Government should consider....

"The market for recycled materials has collapsed because China is no longer accepting the quantity of material for recycling they used to.

"The reduction in demand has seen prices for recyclable materials fall dramatically.

"Finally, this crisis also represents an opportunity to build a new system which can deliver better outcomes for our communities, our environment, and our economy.

More: www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1805/S00488/government-action-needed-to-avert-recycling-crisis.htm plus www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Rebooting-Recycling.-What-can-Aotearoa-do-FINAL.pdf 10 pages, 129 KB

Source: Duncan Wilson, LinkedIn, 1st June 2018. ❖

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Send your news items, handy hints, case studies, suggestions, comments and questions to Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*.
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