

11 December 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Prime Minister  
Freepost Parliament  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Kia ora Christopher,

### **Prime Minister's Summer Reading List 2024/2025**

Please find attached the McGuinness Institute's 2024/25 Summer Reading List for the Prime Minister, including a copy of each of our recommended books for you to enjoy. As a think tank focused on New Zealand's long-term future, we enjoy the process of looking ahead to see what skills and insights may be needed for the coming year. Our selection of books aims to reflect our thinking and we hope they help support your work in the year ahead.

### **GDS Index – Government department strategies under the microscope**

As well as the above books, please find attached an early copy of the *2023 GDS Index*. This publication aims to illustrate how New Zealand might strengthen government department strategies (GDSs) to be more effective, responsive, measurable, comparable and durable through public consultation, engagement and ownership. The *Handbook* is supported by a methodology and additional working papers. In the *Handbook*, we make four recommendations:

1. The House of Representatives should find a better way to communicate and report on government priorities, goals and targets.
2. The Ministry for Regulation Te Manatū Waeture and/or Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission should maintain a central register of GDSs, along with a consultation timeline for members of the public and guidance on how government departments can improve the content of GDSs.
3. The Minister of Climate Change should require all 230 GDSs to be reassessed to take into account the impacts of climate change, before 1 July 2025.
4. Government departments should identify the GDSs they have in operation in their annual reports.

It is now ten years since we started this project, and in all honesty, I cannot believe New Zealand is still failing to provide the necessary stewardship and oversight of these important public policy instruments. Given our concerns over these shortcomings, the Institute is now committed to preparing an annual list of government strategies from 2025. However, our hope is that government will undertake this work as expressed in the recommendations above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the way forward.

We hope you have a relaxing summer break, ideally with a few good books by your side.

Best wishes,



Wendy McGuinness