

Dear Nadine,

The recent announcement of CEO Mark Wheeler's retirement has got us thinking. We've been talking about the importance of the selection of his replacement and are keen to see appropriate weighting being given to environmental as well as commercial experience. We see this as a great opportunity for MDC to show leadership in our community by appointing a CEO with strong environmental credentials.

We encourage you to spread your search for a new CEO wider than the places that local bodies might traditionally advertise. Marlborough needs a leader that is fully committed to supporting the transition and shift to a low carbon emissions economy where the needs of the environment are given top priority. He or she will need to inspire existing Marlborough residents and businesses and attract organisations and industry's into our region that want to help create a thriving, diverse and most importantly, sustainable local economy. An effective CEO needs to lead by example, and show that the visions and values expressed for our region aren't just lip-service but are core to all our local decision making.

Therefore we ask that the job description would not only include good management and business skills but also a deep understanding of the issues that have resulted in the environmental climate crises we are now facing here and globally. The importance of the new CEO having a good understanding of the limitations and challenges created by our current economic system cannot be underestimated. Our future CEO will need to take advantage of any opportunity to integrate innovative approaches into regional economic decision making such as a steady state economy, natural capital accounting, the doughnut theory and circular business models, rather than the current narrow focus on economic growth.

We note in one of the media articles that there would be a *"national advertising and a process to get the new chief executive on board next year."* From our perspective we see increasing economic and environmental challenges ahead and therefore we would hope that Council will be cognisant of these when drawing up the job description for the new Chief Executive position. We believe that choosing the right person to take this leadership role at MDC will be a critical factor in how well we adapt to and manage the challenges ahead. Also we encourage Council to share the finalised job description with the Marlborough community. That will signal to us what your priorities are and help build solidarity and support from the growing number of residents who are concerned to see environmental matters treated with the priority they require.

Your sincerely,

Budyong Hill – Co-chair, Climate Karanga Marlborough.

Helen Braithwaite – Secretary, Forest and Bird Marlborough.

November 6th, 2023.

We have attached a copy of the 2021 "Dasgupta Review - Headline Messages." This review which is now two and a half years old was a much needed wake up call then, but there appear to still be many people slumbering. Can we please make a plea for you and all councillors to, at the very least, run through the 10 pages and read the 10 headlines. It will only take a minute or two of your time, but hopefully will bring into perspective the magnitude of our concern.