



THE POLICY OBSERVATORY

June 2019 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the June newsletter for The Policy Observatory, which features a number of budget-related items, and an invitation to a book launch in July.

BOOK LAUNCH: A CAREFUL REVOLUTION

Climate change is happening but how can we manage the short-term costs of mitigation? In July The Policy Observatory's David Hall is publishing an edited collection, [*A careful revolution: Towards a low-emissions future*](#), that looks at this question. This BWB text features essays by eleven authors on the challenges and opportunities of the transition to a low-emissions society and economy.

You're invited to the book launch:

Where: Auckland University of Technology city campus

When: Wednesday 10 July 2019, from 4:30-6pm.

David will be joined in conversation by fellow contributor, Assoc Professor Maria Bargh, Tumuaki/ Head of School of Te Kawa a Māui/School of Māori Studies, Victoria University of Wellington. Event details and bookings can be made here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/book-launch-a-careful-revolution-towards-a-low-emissions-future-tickets-63178596884>

VIDEO: PRE-BUDGET BREAKFAST BRIEFING WITH BERL

Last month The Policy Observatory hosted economics consulting firm Berl for a pre-budget breakfast briefing. We have video of the event for those unable to make it. The full session in one video is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0gfSDpNTqI&t=13s>

But the presentations are also available as separate clips:

Amanda Reid on The Treasury's approach to wellbeing and how it fits with wider government strategy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LSkDkgy2A&t=3s>

Nick Robertson on the economic context in which the government has designed the budget, including domestic and international risks facing the New Zealand economy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_Qo2cdNk2E&t=2s

Ganesh Nana's presentation deals with the question of transformation, and is followed by the audience Q+A <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LE8S8i4mJMY&t=224s>

Slides for the presentations are here: <https://www.berl.co.nz/economic-insights/community-development-government-and-fiscal-policy/will-wellbeing-budget-be>



BRIEFING PAPERS

The [Briefing Papers website](#) hosts short policy-related papers. You can subscribe to new posts using an RSS feed, or have them sent to your mailbox.

Not the transformation we were promised. By Amanda Reid and Ganesh Nana.

Amanda Reid and Ganesh Nana of BERL analyse Budget 2019, the Wellbeing Budget. This paper begins with a description of the budget's elements, including its three pronged-approach, the government's five (plus one) priorities, and the Living Standards Framework. Some budget programmes are highlighted to show how these elements come together. Then, a critique. Is this the transformation we have been waiting for?

<https://briefingpapers.co.nz/not-the-transformation-we-were-promised>

Behind the scenes at Te Papa. By Lionel Carter and Mike Rudge.

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa has been in the news for restructuring and staff cuts. Scientists Lionel Carter and Mike Rudge argue that the Board of Te Papa, none of whom are scientists or museologists, lacks understanding of its role as a manager of collections for posterity. Neglecting back of house functions, and cutting collections expertise, puts our treasures at risk.

<http://briefingpapers.co.nz/behind-the-scenes-at-te-papa/>

IN THE NEWS

David Hall has recently published a range of commentary on current affairs.

In the wake of the Christchurch mosque attacks, he interviewed two global experts on countering violent extremism for the *New Zealand Listener*. See here:

<https://www.noted.co.nz/currently/social-issues/online-extremism-counterterrorism-experts-on-why-we-must-engage/>

He also wrote an op-ed for *Stuff/Dominion Post* about racism and intolerance in New Zealand, and what conclusions we ought to draw (or not) from data sets such as the General Social Survey. See here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/christchurch-shooting/112212972/we-must-recognise-racism-in-nz-before-we-can-put-it-right>

Finally, on the 2019 Wellbeing Budget, provided commentary to the [Science Media Centre](#), [New Zealand Herald](#), and [The Conversation](#). In the latter he argues that while the Budget is not yet transformational, it is transitional, especially by supporting the just transition to a low-emissions economy. You can read David's academic analysis of the wellbeing approach for the [Policy Quarterly](#).

PODCASTS

The Policy Observatory has a podcast: *The Policy Fix*. The episodes are 15-20 minute interviews with policy experts on their work. We focus on the problems with existing policy, why they matter, and what can be done to fix them. Our first series focused on inequality, and our second focuses on water policy. Check out our podcasts on our website, where you will also find links on how to subscribe.

<https://thepolicyobservatory.aut.ac.nz/thepolicyfix>

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