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Media Release

Sustainable business group's new leader: Seize opportunities from worsening resource shortages

Businesses need to focus on how to make the most of new opportunities driven by the growing shortage of local and world natural resources.

The newly elected chair of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development, Bob Field, also chair of Toyota NZ Limited, says the planet's resources are being stretched as never before by a growing population and higher standards of living.

"The global pressures from an expected 50% increase in human population and a tripling of energy demand and vehicle fleet in the first half of the 21st century will provide New Zealand with a unique opportunity to build an international competitive edge as a sustainable economy with eco friendly products and tourism opportunities," Mr Field says.

"The importance of sustainability in the 21st century is growing - and businesses are only sustainable if the environment and society in which they operate is also sustainable. It's encouraging that sustainability is becoming more mainstream - but there is much more to do.

"As a council we encourage New Zealand business to regard an investment in sustainability not simply as a cost - but a key opportunity. Preserving the unique Kiwi quality of life can also be achieved in parallel to this business objective. That's reflected in the Business Council's recent major research and policy development work on how the country can solve its fresh water allocation problems, improve the performance of a million poorly insulated homes, and put a price on other activities affecting the environment, like greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste going to landfills," Mr Field says.

Mr Field replaces former chair Nick Main, of Deloitte, who has moved to London to head his firm's global climate change work, as leader of the 10 year-old Business Council. Its member companies jointly employ more than 88,000 people. Their annual sales of \$59 billion equate to about 43% of gross domestic product in dollar terms.

The Business Council was launched in 1999 with 20 member companies by then Fletcher Challenge chief executive Mike Andrews and The Warehouse founder Sir Stephen Tindall. Mr Andrews said at the time: "I think the quality of New Zealand's economy, environment and society, the size and scope of export opportunities and the domestic and international policy frameworks supporting them, could all be enhanced by a strong, credible and rigorously well-informed business group committed to sustainable development."

Members believe sustainable businesses are profitable, contribute to social progress and ecological balance – and protect New Zealand's quality of life.

New Business Council appointments are:

Bob Field, Toyota NZ Limited, Chairman
Mark Drury, URS, Deputy Chair (large enterprises)
Steve Bonnici, Urgent Couriers, Deputy Chair (SMEs)
Nick Collins, Beacon Pathway, Executive Committee Member
Brett Tomkins, Deloitte, Executive Committee Member

Existing Committee Members are:

Doug Heffernan, Mighty River Power
Graeme Norton, 3R
Malcolm Rands, Ecostore
Mark Gilbert, BMW NZ
Rob Fenwick, Living Earth
Sean Bignell, Hobsonville Land Company
Tim Lusk, Meridian
Warren Parker, Landcare Research
Sir Stephen Tindall, The Warehouse
Dick Hubbard, Hubbard Foods

Biographical notes:

Bob Field, Chair, Business Council: Currently Chairman of Toyota New Zealand, a director of KiwiRail, and Chairman of a private funds management company. Mr Field has 40 years' international experience in the motor industry, including 25 years as the CEO of Toyota New Zealand. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Canterbury University and post graduate qualifications in accounting and corporate governance. He was a founding member of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development and has been a trustee of the World Wide Fund for Nature for the past 25 years, including past service on the WWF International Board in Switzerland and Chair of the local branch. He is also an alumnus member of NZ Business Roundtable.

Mark Drury, Deputy Chair: Chief Executive of URS New Zealand Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of URS Corporation, a publicly held company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. A civil engineer, he has been with URS, in its various forms, for 30 years. He was appointed to his current role as Chief Executive of URS New Zealand in 2000. He is also a member of the URS Asia Pacific Advisory Board.

Steve Bonnici, Deputy Chair: Managing Director, Urgent Couriers Limited, started in the transport industry in 1983 and formed Urgent Couriers in 1989, specialising in on-demand courier services, growing it to become the country's largest privately owned courier company. Mr Bonnici has an MBA from the University of Auckland. Urgent Couriers joined the Auckland Environment Business Network in 1997 and the Business Council in 2000.

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The Business Council believes sustainable businesses are profitable, contribute to social progress and ecological balance – and protect New Zealand's quality of life. The Business Council's members jointly employ more than 88,000 people in managing resources, manufacturing, retailing and the service sector. Members contribute annual sales of about \$59 billion to the economy, equivalent to 43% of GDP. The Business Council runs a national online survey panel, ShapeNZ, to allow public input on major issues. The panel has more than 14,000 members, is built from purchased lists and is representative of the population as a whole, compared with the 2006 census. ShapeNZ members register and provide demographic and previous party vote information to ensure results can be accurately weighted to reflect the New Zealand population. A report is available [here](#) on ShapeNZ methodology. Registration is also available at www.shapenz.org.nz.