



# Office of Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM

**MP for North Shore**

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Seniors

**28 MAR 2017**

Miriam Dean  
Chair  
NZ On Air  
PO Box 9744  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ms Dean

## **LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS FOR 2017/18**

This letter sets out my expectations for the Broadcasting Commission (NZ On Air) in 2017/18. Its purpose is to assist the Board to draft the 2017/18 Statement of Performance Expectations and other strategic planning documents.

But first, I wish to acknowledge NZ On Air's success in 2015/16, in funding 897 hours of television content and reaching audiences over 500,000 for four of the programmes it funds. Maintaining high levels of public appreciation of the local projects NZ On Air supports while operating within the constraints of static funding is to be commended.

### **Enduring Letter of Expectations**

Before outlining my specific expectations for NZ On air, I would like to reiterate that the enduring letter of expectations<sup>1</sup> to all Statutory Crown Entities remains in force and to emphasise two of the expectations outlined in this letter - effective governance and "no surprises".

The Government requires effective self-monitoring by Crown entity boards. While your board has the most immediate and direct responsibility for monitoring the performance of the NZ On Air, I expect it to continue to provide me (as responsible Minister) with high quality information on performance against your planning documents, and timely information on the risks and opportunities facing your organisation. I have asked the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (the Ministry), acting as my monitoring agent, to focus on the quality and timeliness of performance information.

As always, I ask you to maintain a "no surprises" approach to briefing me, and to work constructively with the Ministry in its Vote performance monitoring role and in any policy issues that may arise. You should ensure that the Ministry is engaged when the Board is considering significant issues that may materially affect your plans and operations.

For the avoidance of doubt, "no surprises" means that I expect you to inform me in a timely manner about matters of significance within my portfolio responsibilities,

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/expectations-letter-crown-entities-july12>

particularly where these matters may be controversial or may become the subject of public debate.

In addition, I ask that you work with the Ministry, as required, by providing relevant production and sector information to support policy consideration, for example on work towards a Digital Convergence Bill, and other matters that may arise over the year.

### **Specific Expectations**

My specific expectations for 2017/18 relating to core business, collaboration with the sector, and specific reviews are as follows:

- 1 *Funding Strategy* – I would like you to keep me informed of the implementation of the NZ Media Fund and to provide me with evidence of its results once it is implemented in July 2017.
- 2 *New Zealand Music Code* – please continue working with the Ministry and the Radio Broadcasters Association to develop a new Music Code, and tools to ensure its implementation, which maintains New Zealanders' ability to access New Zealand music.
- 3 *Regional broadcasting* – please keep me informed of the results of multi-platform projects across the seven regions funded in 2016 and any further developments in this area.
- 4 *Disability services* – continue to focus on maintaining quality service outcomes for captioning and the audio description service.

Finally, I would appreciate a response to this letter, which outlines the key strategic challenges and opportunities facing NZ On Air and how the Board intends responding to the expectations contained in this letter.

I look forward to working with you, the rest of the Board over the coming year, and to seeing the expectations outlined above reflected in your planning documents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon Maggie Barry ONZM  
**Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**

cc Jane Wrightson  
Chief Executive  
NZ On Air  
PO Box 9744  
WELLINGTON