

Event backgrounder: Meeting with Professor Jan Thomas from Massey University on 22 May 2019

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	s9(2)(a), Manager Delivery and Projects
Date:	10 May 2019
Reference:	E-19-00555

Purpose

1. This backgrounder provides you with information to support your meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University (Massey), Professor Jan Thomas, on Wednesday 22 May 2019. She would like to update you on some of their latest initiatives in the agricultural space. A biography of the Vice-Chancellor is attached as Appendix One.
2. General information about Massey is attached as Appendix Two. This appendix includes Massey's delivery and performance information for 2017 compared with its 2019 commitments.
3. Finalised data for the 2018 year is not available until the April 2019 single data return (SDR) has been submitted and analysed.
4. We recommend that this backgrounder is proactively released, with information about Massey s9(2)(ba)(i).

Background information about Massey

5. Massey is one of New Zealand's largest universities by learner numbers and delivers nationally with campuses in Palmerston North, Auckland and Wellington and its extensive distance learning provision. Massey has a particular focus on industrial innovation in agri-food science, food technology and agri-business. It is also home to New Zealand's only veterinary science school, which is internationally accredited, earns significant research income and produces top quality graduates.

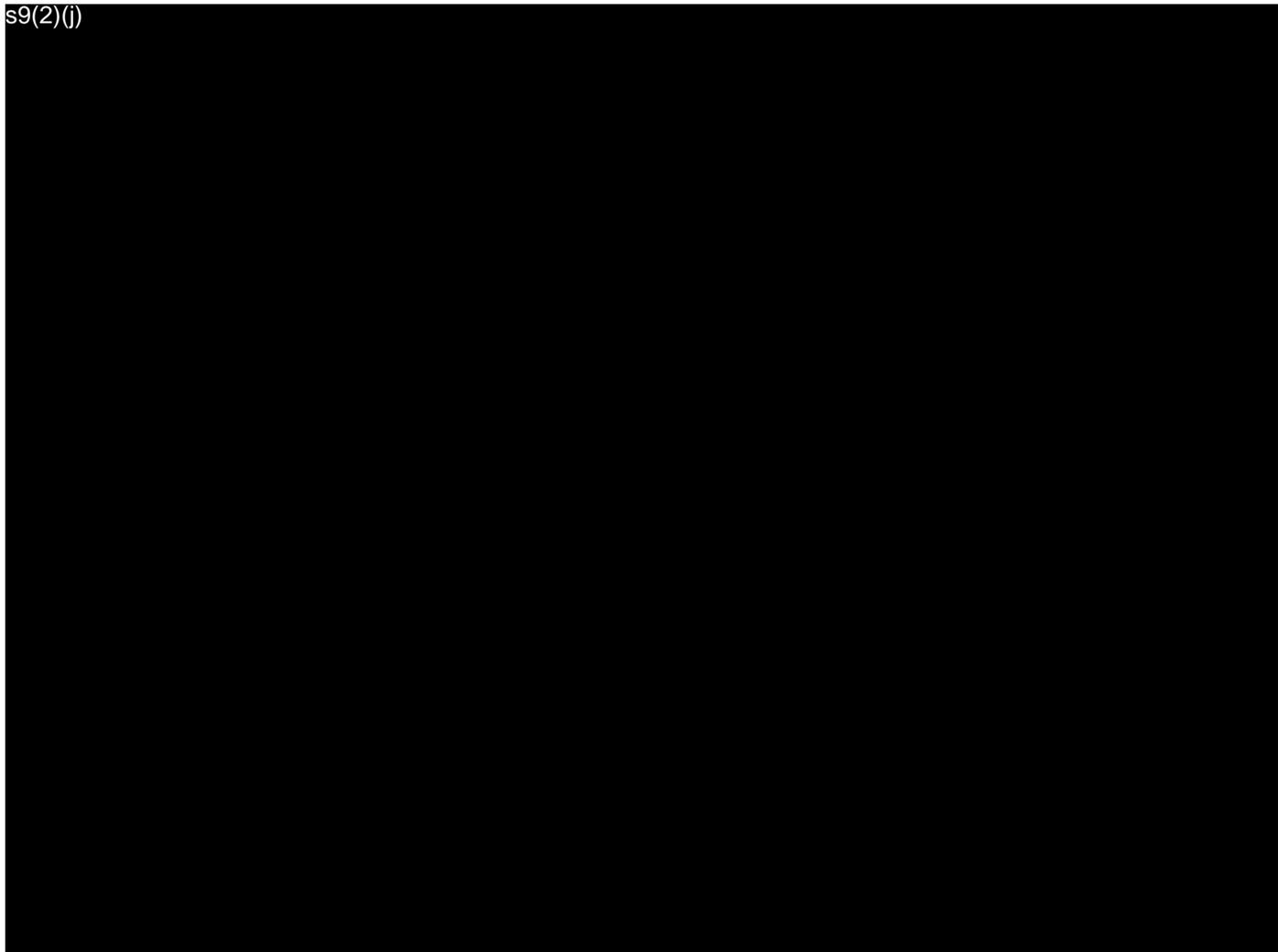
Massey leads in university distance education

6. Massey considers itself a forward thinking research-led, comprehensive university. It describes itself as New Zealand's pre-eminent university-level distance education provider, with approximately 14,000 learners who study by distance at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
7. In 2014, it launched "Massey Worldwide", a new brand to promote transnational activities for international students living overseas, including the delivery of fully online programmes and customised blended learning packages for learners in targeted regions and countries.

Massey's agriculture-based delivery is slightly below average

8. In 2017, Massey delivered 314 EFTS in agriculture, environmental and related studies at level 7 and 103 EFTS at level 8 to 10.
9. At degree level and higher, Massey's 2017 course completion rate for agriculture, environmental and related studies was 84.6%. This compares with an 89.8% average for all other providers offering degree level and higher in this area.
10. Narrowing the focus to just post-graduate degree provision in the same field, Massey's course completion rate rises to 87.7% compared to an overall average of 94.2%.
11. Massey has the lowest post-graduate course completion rate of all the seven universities delivering in this field, however, its rate of 87.7% does not represent poor performance.

s9(2)(j)



Massey hosts the Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence

16. Massey hosts the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence (also known as Ako Aotearoa). The Centre contributes to excellent educational outcomes for learners by working with tertiary education providers to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The Centre's particular focus is on promoting teaching excellence, improving educational outcomes for Māori and Pasifika and improving literacy and numeracy rates.
17. The current Ako Aotearoa contract between Massey University and the TEC concludes in December 2019. Ako Aotearoa will receive total funding of \$5.5 million over the period of July 2018 – December 2019.

Enhancing the research environment

Outcome of the 2018 PBRF Quality Evaluation

18. In 2018, Massey participated in the 2018 Performance-Based Research Fund¹ (PBRF) Quality Evaluation, which rewards research excellence based on peer evaluation of individual research portfolios. Based on the results, Massey will receive \$22 million in Quality Evaluation funding, representing 12.9 percent of the total pool – the third highest funding share in New Zealand. It also receives 13.0% of External Research Income and 10.6% of Research Degree Completion funding.
19. In the 2018 Quality Evaluation, Massey was awarded the largest number of funded Quality Categories (74.27 FTE-weighted) and the largest number of A Quality Categories (14.54 FTE-weighted) in Agriculture and Other Applied Biological Science. Respectively, it was awarded the third largest proportion of funded Quality Categories in Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour and Molecular, Cellular and Whole Organism Biology, behind only Auckland and Otago universities.

The Riddet Institute

20. The Riddet Institute has been funded as a Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) since 2007 and was successful in the 2015 CoREs selection round, gaining funding of \$29.87 million for a further 5 years from 1 January 2016 to the end of 2020. The institute operates as a partnership with the Universities of Auckland and Otago and two Crown Research Institutes (AgResearch, Plant and Food Research Ltd).
21. The Institute plays an important role in supporting and growing the New Zealand food industry with scientific excellence. It specialises in advanced foods and human nutrition sciences, with world-class standing in the areas of biomaterials science and digestive physiology relating to nutrient absorption and metabolism.
22. The institute has created a new International Consortium in food science and nutrition with the University of Leeds (United Kingdom), Wageningen University and Research Centre (Netherlands), Zhejiang Gongshang University (China), University College Cork (Ireland), and Kumamoto University (Japan). This international consortium was formed to provide consistency, collaboration and cooperation to promote food science and nutrition research; exchange and share research developments; establish multi-lateral links and collaborations in research and student training programmes; and establish a joint knowledge base for international food companies to access the Chinese market.
23. Long term strategic partners are Fonterra, Zespri, Goodman Fielder and Alpha Group. New strategic partnerships with Douglas Nutrition and Comvita were established in 2018. Discussions with Whakatū Incorporation and Nuku ki te Puku regarding a strategic partnership were also at an advanced stage with anticipation of a formal agreement in 2019.

Additional matters that may be raised

s9(2)(ba)(i)

¹ The PBRF is made up of three components: the Quality Evaluation (55% of funding); Research Degree Completions (25% of funding); and External Research Income (20% of funding).

24. s9(2)(ba)(i)

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s9(2)(a)

Manager Delivery and Projects
Tertiary Education Commission

10 May 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Appendix One: Biography of Massey Vice-Chancellor



Professor Jan Thomas commenced as Vice Chancellor of Massey University in January 2017. From 2012 Professor Thomas served as Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia. Prior to that, she held various senior executive positions at Murdoch University and the University of Notre Dame Australia from 2003.

Professor Thomas has a PhD in Veterinary Science from Murdoch University and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute for Company Directors. She has received numerous awards for her leadership in education.

Professor Thomas currently holds the position of Chair for the Managing Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities based in London and is a member of the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Council.

Appendix Two: Massey Delivery in 2017 and 2018

2017 and 2018 value of delivery versus commitment

Reporting Year	Value of delivery (\$ ex GST)	Value funded by TEC	Percentage over-/under-delivery
2017	\$150,613,820	\$150,434,581	0.1%
2018	\$154,480,005	\$151,393,744	1.7%

2017 and 2018 volume of delivery versus commitment

Reporting Year	Volume of delivery (EFTS)	Volume of delivery funded by TEC (EFTS)	Percentage over-/under-delivery
2017	15,051	14,854	0.1%
2018	15,118	15,008	1.7%

The above information is sourced from the 'My Commitments' App using the 'commitments vs actuals over time' sheet with filters for reporting year (2017 and 2018) and TEO (7003 – Massey University)

Massey University educational performance indicator commitments for 2019 v 2017 actual

Commitment type	Ethnicity Group	Intended qualification cohort group	2017 actual	2019 commitment
Course completion rate	Māori	all	73.8%	75.0%
	Non-Māori and non-Pasifika	all	85.6%	85.8%
	Pasifika	all	63.7%	65.0%
First year retention rate	Māori	Level 7 degree	57.7%	62.0%
	Non-Māori and non-Pasifika	Level 7 degree	71.5%	68.5%
	Pasifika	Level 7 degree	22.7%	62.0%
Participation	Māori	Level 4 to 7 (non degree)	9.6%	16.5%
		Level 7 degree	11.1%	13.3%
		Level 8 to 10	7.5%	9.2%
	Non-Māori and non-Pasifika	Level 4 to 7 (non degree)	83.4%	72.5%
		Level 7 degree	84.5%	80.7%
		Level 8 to 10	89.6%	86.8%
	Pasifika	Level 4 to 7 (non degree)	7.4%	11.0%
		Level 7 degree	5.0%	6.0%
		Level 8 to 10	3.3%	4.0%

The above information is sourced as follows:

2019 commitments: 'My Commitments' App using the 'performance commitments variance' sheet with filters for reporting year (2019) and TEO (7003 – Massey University)

2017 actuals: 'My Performance SDR' App using the 'All of TEO view performance measures/participation for plan commitments' sheet with filters for reporting year (2017) and TEO (7003 – Massey University).

Notes:

The data is at 7 May 2019.

This data has been compiled specifically to respond to this question. It uses administrative data collected by the Tertiary Education Commission for the purposes of funding tertiary education. Care should be taken when making comparisons with other data collected or compiled for other purposes.

EVENT BACKGROUNDER: MEETING WITH MASSEY UNIVERSITY ON WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019

REPORT NUMBER: E-19-00555