



DR BELINDA MCFADGEN

CONTACT

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QUALIFICATIONS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
VRIJE UNIVERSITY 2018

Environmental policy analysis

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
VRIJE UNIVERSITY 2007

International biodiversity governance

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO 2002

Ecology

BACHELOR OF LAWS
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO 2002

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CONSULTANT

Belinda's career spans almost twenty years across environmental law, policy, and science. From this breadth of experience, she has gained multiple skills, particularly in research and analysis, collaboration and communication, and stakeholder management.

Belinda's primary policy focus is climate adaptation and nature-based solutions. She values taking an evidence-based approach to policy making that includes participatory processes that incorporate multiple perspectives and interests.

Belinda is a systems thinker with an interest in the integration of nature and climate goals through innovative, multi-functional solutions.

EXPERTISE

- Ability to navigate the science/policy interface through applying scientific concepts and perspectives to policy development.
- Advanced theoretical and applied climate adaptation knowledge and understanding.
- Doctorate-level research and analysis skills, with experience analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data.
- Well-developed presentation and facilitation skills.
- Strong relationship and personal skills, with a clear and open communication style.
- Natural systems thinker that values policy integration and multifunctional

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
CONSULTANT
THE CATALYST GROUP
2023–present

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR
MINISTRY FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT
2020–2023

RESEARCH FELLOW
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
2019–2022

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER
INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT
STUDIES, AMSTERDAM
2011–2018

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
INCITE LIMITED
2004–2006

LEGAL AND RESEARCH COUNSEL
ENVIRONMENT COURT
2002–2004

SAMPLE PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NbS) WORK PROGRAMME MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 2023

Collaborated with another Crown agency to scope a work programme for actions in the climate plans co-owned by both agencies; developed a framework for key enablers of NbS and scoped a budget bid for funding. Established an agency knowledge-sharing network, produced materials, and gave presentations to build awareness and capability.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADAPTATION INFORMATION PORTAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 2020–2022

Co-led the development of the national adaptation plan chapter on enabling better risk-informed decisions. Subsequently led the identification of data and information needs across the system and the development of a modular programme to deliver the adaptation information portal. Led the communication of the draft programme to various audiences.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHAPTER IN THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 2020–2022

Constructed the narrative and provided technical and policy advice to support policy development and implementation of the natural environment chapter. Coordinated compilation of existing policy actions. Led iwi/Māori engagement for the chapter.

CHAPTER SCIENTIST FOR THE IPCC AR6 WG2 REPORT: IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON 2019–2022

Provided editorial and technical support for the scientific writers on the Australasian chapter. A contributing author to the chapter.

CO-LEAD OF THE BIOMIMICRY OREGON REGIONAL NETWORK BIOMIMICRY OREGON 2016–2019

Part of a team that revived the regional network for biomimicry in Portland, Oregon. Worked with Oregon zoo on educational materials, leading information evenings to build awareness and strengthen the network and producing web content on biomimicry projects and links to climate change.