



2 August 2010

To all Public Service Chief Executives

Dear All

New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing framework (NZGOAL)

The Government has approved the *New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing framework* which sets out government guidance for State Services agencies to follow when releasing copyright works and non-copyright material for re-use by third parties (CAB Min (10) 24/5A refers). This is the culmination of work that started in March 2009 when the State Services Commission (SSC) released the *Suggested All-of-Government Approach to Licensing of Public Sector Copyright Works: Discussion Paper*. Many agencies have provided feedback on this paper and the draft framework since then. NZGOAL has been prepared by SSC in collaboration with the Department of Internal Affairs.

NZGOAL is a significant step towards generating creative, cultural and economic opportunities for New Zealanders and both non-profit and commercial organisations through innovative and legal re-use of non-personal government copyright and non-copyright material. It also fosters greater transparency of government agencies' performance through encouraging the release of (and feedback on) performance data.

It sets out a series of open licensing and open access principles for copyright works and non-copyright material. It advocates the release of copyright works for re-use using the most open Creative Commons (CC) licence, and non-copyright material for re-use using 'no known rights' statements, unless a restriction applies. And it guides agencies through the questions they need to consider before releasing material for re-use.

For agencies, adoption of NZGOAL is expected to provide:

- improved understanding of Crown copyright, copyright and licensing;
- a standardised and consistent way to license copyright works and release non-copyright material for re-use by third parties; and
- reduced legal costs as they can use the CC licences and have less need to draw up bespoke licensing agreements.

For users, agencies' adoption of NZGOAL will mean:

- they will know what non-personal government material they can re-use legally;
- the licence will be clearly set out on the material;

- they do not need to register to use the material; and
- they can combine material that is licensed with the same or another compatible licence (both government and non-government).

The Cabinet Minute directs Public Service and non-Public Service departments, strongly encourages State Services agencies (other than school boards of trustees), and invites school boards of trustees to:

- familiarise themselves with NZGOAL, in its current form, and as may be updated from time to time; and
- take it into account when releasing copyright material and non-copyright material to the public for re-use.

SSC and the Royal Society of New Zealand, which administers the Creative Commons licences in New Zealand, are developing a training programme to help agencies understand and apply NZGOAL when they publish and release non-personal copyright and non-copyright material. The first stage of this programme will be run in October/November 2010.

Our testing of NZGOAL in three agencies suggests that the primary users of NZGOAL will be legal advisors, communications/publishing staff and business owners of the specific material being released. I encourage these staff in your agencies to attend the training programme.

I am very optimistic that agencies will implement the guidance set out in NZGOAL and that the report back to the Minister of State Services on agency adoption 12 months after the release of NZGOAL will confirm that it has provided valuable guidance for your staff and that feedback from users indicates that they can more readily access and re-use government's non-personal information and data.

Can you please alert your staff to NZGOAL, the Cabinet Minute (CAB Min (10) 24/5A), Cabinet Paper and a comprehensive set of Questions and Answers – all at www.e.govt.nz/policy/nzgoal.

Please contact Keitha Booth at 04-4956731 or keitha.booth@ssc.govt.nz for further information.

Yours sincerely



Iain Rennie
State Services Commissioner