

**Abstract for “An assessment of New Zealand’s productivity performance”**

**Paul Conway (New Zealand Productivity Commission)**

**Lisa Meehan (New Zealand Productivity Commission)**

This paper describes New Zealand’s productivity performance. It uses data at different levels of aggregation to assess the productivity performance of the whole economy, groupings of industries, and individual sectors. It describes New Zealand’s productivity performance through time and in comparison to other OECD countries, particularly Australia. The paper also offers some speculation on the underlying drivers of New Zealand’s productivity performance. However, the focus is very much on illustrating productivity trends and the paper does not provide a comprehensive treatment of the economic causes underlying New Zealand’s performance (which is the subject of future NZPC work). Measures of both labour productivity and multi-factor productivity (MFP) are used as a basis for assessing New Zealand’s productivity trends. Different datasets are used throughout the paper, depending on context. However, to a large extent, they tell a consistent story about the broad trends in New Zealand’s productivity performance. The paper goes on to place these productivity trends in international context. The paper also delves into the sectoral data to better understand the sectoral contributions to New Zealand’s aggregate productivity trends.