## **Proactive Release**

Date: 23 December 2021

The following Submissions have been proactively released by the Minister of Climate Change:

| Title  | Date            |
|--|-----------------|
| 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution    | 21 June 2021    |
| Release of Climate Change Commission draft for public consultation | 31 January 2021 |

Some parts of these Submissions are not appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### Key OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government
- s9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by the public service
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege
- 9(2)(j): to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.



Approved

Comments

Needs amendment

Overtaken by events



Seen

Withdrawn

| Manatû Aorere   |  |  |                              |  |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| 17 June 2021  |  |  |                              |  |
| Minister of Forei<br>Minister of Clima  |  | For information by For information by                    | 21 June 2021<br>21 June 2021 |  |
| 2021 update   | e of New Zealand's Nat                                   | tionally Determined                                      | Contribution                 |  |
| BRIEFING  | Overview Submission                                      |  |                              |  |
| PURPOSE  This submission provides an international lens and foreign policy perspecton updating the Nationally Determined Contribution ahead of the Clir Response Ministers Group meeting on 23 June – responding to the Minister Climate Change's request for advice. |  |  |                              |  |
| Tukunga tūt   | ohua – Recommended                                       | l referrals  |                              |  |
| Prime Minister<br>Minister for Trade  | e and Export Growth                                      | For information by For information by                    | 22 June 2021<br>22 June 2021 |  |
| Taipitopito v   | vhakapā – Contact deta                                   | ails   |                              |  |
| NAME<br>Kay Harrison<br>Todd Croad  | ROLE Climate Change Ambassador Climate Change Specialist | DIVISION Climate Change Division Climate Change Division | WORK PHONE<br>s9(2)(a)       |  |
| Mā te Tari M  | linita e whakakī – Mini                                  | ster's Office to com                                     | plete                        |  |

Noted

Declined

See Minister's notes

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# 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution Pito matua – Key points

- New Zealand's current Paris Agreement emissions reduction target, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was set in 2016 at 30% below 2005 emissions levels. In 2020, the Minister of Climate Change requested He Pou a Rangi, the Climate Change Commission, to provide advice on whether the current NDC is compatible with contributing to global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- The Government has now received the Climate Change Commission's final reccomendations on the NDC:
  - the NDC is not compatible with making a contribution to global efforts under the Paris Agreement to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and
  - for the NDC to be compatible with the 1.5°C goal, it would need to reflect emissions reductions **much more than 36% below 2005 levels by 2030**.
- New Zealand is **legally required** to prepare its NDCs with a view to the global achievement of the purpose of the Paris Agreement. This includes the aim to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Alongside this, New Zealand has committed, through the Paris Agreement, to prepare an NDC that reflects its **highest possible ambition** in light of national circumstances.
- Since New Zealand set its NDC in 2016 new information has become available the world's efforts and commitments do not put us on track to limit warming to 1.5 °C (or even 2 °C).
- New Zealand also has more information on the emissions reduction opportunities within the New Zealand economy than when the NDC was set in 2016. If greater domestic abatement is available at lower costs than was anticipated in 2016 the question arises as to whether the NDC represents the same degree of stretch as in 2016.
- In January, following the Commission's draft advice, the Prime Minister and Minister of Climate Change stated that New Zealand will revise the NDC. The Prime Minister reiterated this at the US Climate Change Summit in April, stating New Zealand will "lift our ambition, because we must."
- It is in New Zealand's interest, as well as those of our Pacific neighbours, for all countries to deliver ambitious action consistent with limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. Alongside setting 1.5 °C at the heart of our climate change reponse the Government has committed to reinforcing greater global action through leadership by example. An ambitious update to New Zealand's NDC is an opportunity to join other climate leaders.
  - The NDC is the primary metric by which the world will judge New Zealand's climate ambition. It states what New Zealand will contribute in response to the global environmental problem of climate change. It is different from (and greater than) the plan New Zealand will need to transition our domestic economy to low emissions.
- Some countries, including the United States, European Union, and United Kingdom have responded to the global ambition gap already by increasing their NDCs to - 50% or greater. They are calling on others to follow suit and commit to greater action through their NDCs in order to 'keep 1.5 alive'.

## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

- Action on climate change is a critical part of New Zealand's relationships with key partners such as Pacific Island countries, the United States, China, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. Climate change is entwined with other aspects of New Zealand's foreign policy including in trade, development, and our role as APEC host.
- The greater the increase to New Zealand's NDC the more New Zealand's action will be consistent with:
  - leading by example and reinforcing global ambition;
  - matching the urgency and scale of action needed globally to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C;
  - responding proportionately to the gravity of climate change in the Pacific region;
  - the level of ambition of like-minded leading countries;
  - expectations of other countries of New Zealand's action and leadership; and
  - the Climate Change Commission's recommendation of much more than -36%.
     s9(2)(g)(i)

Mych

Deborah Geels for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#### Tūtohu – Recommendations

| It is | recommend | ted t | hat     | VOII. |
|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
| 11 10 |           |       | III CAL | vuu.  |

| 1 | Note the contents of this submission | Yes / No |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
|   |                                      |          |

2 Refer this submission to the Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Yes / No Export Growth

| Hon Nanaia Mahuta<br>Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere |   |  | Hon James Shaw<br>Minister of Climate Change |  |       |   |   |
|---|---|--|--|--|-------|---|---|
| Date:   | / |  | 1  |  | Date: | / | 1 |

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# 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution Pūrongo – Report

### Purpose

- 1. New Zealand's current Paris Agreement emissions reduction target, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was set in 2016 at 30% below 2005 emissions levels. Following the request of the Minister of Climate Change in 2020, the Government has now received the Climate Change Commission's final recommendations on the NDC:
  - 1.1. the **NDC** is not compatible with making a contribution to global efforts under the Paris Agreement to limit the increase in global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and
  - 1.2. for the the NDC to be compatible with the 1.5°C goal, it would need to reflect emissions reductions **much more than 36% below 2005 levels by 2030**.
- 2. Over the course of 2021 the Prime Minister and Minister of Climate Change have stated that New Zealand will revise the NDC; including the Prime Minister communicating this internationally at US Climate Change Summit in April New Zealand will "lift our ambition, because we must."
- 3. Ministers will now meet to discuss and then decide what New Zealand's updated NDC will be. This submission provides an international lens and foreign policy perspective on updating the NDC ahead of the Climate Response Ministers Group meeting of 23 June. The submission responds to a request for advice on these elements made in the MCC-MfE officials' meeting of 14 June. We understand that other agencies will provide advice on their respective areas of expertise.
- 4. The NDC is an international obligation under the Paris Agreement. In addition to considerations such as economic impact and ease of implementation, how New Zealand's NDC will be regarded by other countries, what is expected of us, and whether the NDC demonstrates leadership by example are important considerations.

# Foreign policy considerations

## New Zealand and the Paris Agreement

#### International legal requirements for New Zealand's NDC under the Paris Agreement

- 5. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, and sets objectives relating to temperature, adaptation, and consistency of financial flows with a pathway towards low emissions and climate-resilient development.
- 6. The Agreement's temperature limitation objective is:

From Article 2(1)(a): Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

7. The central obligation for Parties through their NDCs is:

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## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

Article 4(2): Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

- 8. The Paris Agreement does not require New Zealand to set its NDC at any particular level and provides no mechanism for calculating a share of global emissions reductions for an individual State Party. In that respect, New Zealand has considerable flexibility when setting its NDC. However, that flexibility is not unlimited:
  - 8.1. New Zealand is legally required to prepare its NDCs with a view to achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement, including the aim to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. There is no specific formula for assessing compliance with this requirement, but New Zealand should have a coherent view of how its NDC effectively contributes to global achievement of the temperature limit objective.
  - 8.2. New Zealand has committed, through the Paris Agreement, to set each of its sequential NDCs in a manner that reflects its **highest possible ambition** (and that sequential NDCs become stronger over time), contains an economy-wide emissions reductions target, and is consistent with the collective aim of peaking greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and achieving a balance between emissions and emissions removals.
- 9. More detailed legal advice on our Paris Agreement commitments and obligations can be found at **Annex 1**.

## Policy context of the Paris Agreement and global action on climate change

Ambition and 1.5 °C

- 10. Beyond the legal obligations assumed and commitments made in the Paris Agreement, New Zealand's national interest is in an effective and ambitious global response to climate change. New Zealand is a small actor and cannot unilaterally prevent the adverse effects of climate change. It is in our interest, as well as those of our Pacific neighbours, for all countries to commit to and deliver ambitious action consistent with limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. New Zealand's opportunity to influence this response (both multilaterally and with other countries individually) is supported by:
  - a rules-based international system where countries of all sizes have a say and agree to take action; and
  - b) being able to lead by example.
- 11. For the Paris Agreement to succeed in delivering effective climate action, all Parties need to comply with what they have committed to. New Zealand seeks to reinforce the Paris Agreement and greater global action through leadership by example. An ambitious update to New Zealand's NDC (the primary metric by which the world will judge New Zealand's climate ambition) is an opportunity to demonstrate this.
- 12. **New Zealand's NDC must represent its highest possible ambition**. Highest possible ambition is not defined in the Agreement; developed countries, however, are expected to take leadership. In considering New Zealand's highest possible ambition New Zealand has to consider its national circumstances these include a number of factors such as: that this is our third international emissions reduction target and has to be stronger than previous

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## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

ones; population and economic growth. However, from a leadership and international expectation perspective it will be critical that our NDC reflects New Zealand's status as a developed country<sup>1</sup> globally (e.g. top quintile for GDP per capita) and the expectations of New Zealand to take action as such.

13. We note both the Climate Change Commission and MfE have provided advice on equity considerations. In essence these both note that the greater the NDC the greater the likelihood of the NDC being consistent with IPCC pathways for limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, and a greater range of equity considerations within these.

Information for clarity, transparency and understanding

- 14. Parties to the Agreement are strongly encouraged to explain their NDCs this includes information on:
  - 14.1. how the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is **fair and ambitious** in the light of its national circumstances;
  - 14.2. how the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (which the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system);
  - 14.3. how the nationally determined contribution contributes to: holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and global emissions pathways (to peak, reduce and reach global net zero).<sup>2</sup>
- 15. New Zealand is expected to provide this information when communicating its NDC.

## Global efforts - science, leadership and the ambition gap

16. New Zealand's current NDC was developed over the course of 2014/15, before the Paris Agreement was finalised. The parameters of developing the NDC was that it had to be greater than our last two targets ("no backsliding") and that it had to be fair and ambitious. New Zealand then set its NDC in 2016 at - 30% on 2005 levels by 2030.

## Since then we have new international science and there is an ambition gap

- 17. Since New Zealand finalised its NDC in 2016 new information is available the world's efforts do not put us on track to limit warming to 1.5 °C (or even 2 °C).
  - 17.1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change plays a critical role in the international climate change response it is the United Nations body that assesses the science relating to climate change. When the Paris Agreement was adopted, the Parties requested the IPCC provide a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C. Amongst other things this report assessed pathways (i.e. global emissions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Paris Agreement moves beyond the Kyoto Protocol's binary treatment of development status (splitting countries into static lists of developed or developing). In the Paris Agreement there are some specific references that are binary - i.e. developed / developing (e.g. that developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets; and the recognition that peaking will take longer for developing countries). In general, however, the Paris Agreement does not consider a country's development level in this binary way <sup>2</sup> Decision 4/CMA.1.

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## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

reductions needed over time) for limiting global warming to 1.5 °C. The international science, delivered through an agreed multilateral process tells us both the urgency and scale of emissions reductions needed globally by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 °C - i.e. that the world needs to reduce global emissions by 45% on 2010 levels by 2030.

17.2. After Parties had set their NDCs (mostly in 2016) it became clear that these initial NDCs did not put the world (collectively) on track to limit warming to 1.5 °C (or even 2 °C). There is an ambition gap.<sup>3</sup> This gap, coupled with the IPCC pathways and knowledge of impacts (including potential tipping points) means it is important that large reductions happen before 2030 and are not left to later.

#### This knowledge has triggered action from others

- 18. Given the criticality of taking prompt action (in the 2020s), some countries have already responded by significantly increasing their NDCs. They are calling on others to follow suit and commit to greater action through their NDCs in order to 'keep 1.5 alive'.
- 19. Countries we recognise as leaders have responded by taking headline emissions reduction targets of -50% or more. This includes the **United States, European Union and United Kingdom.**
- 20. Headline numbers are the most visible and most frequently used measure to compare NDCs.<sup>4</sup> The table overleaf shows the headline numbers of a range of other similarly developed countries. s9(2)(a)

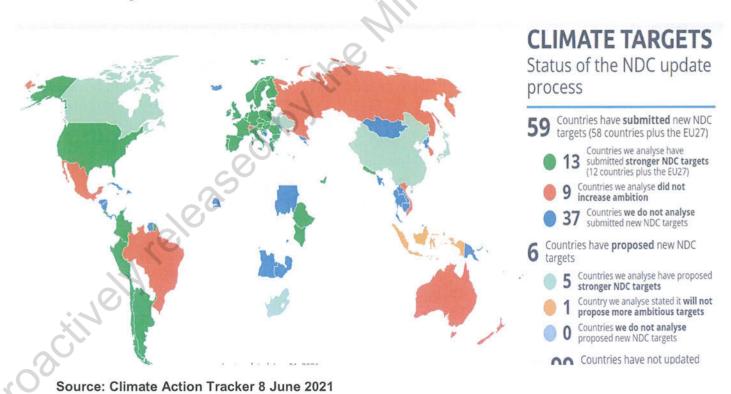
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As highlighted in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and by other bodies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme's Emission Gap reports

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> While headline numbers are a common comparison they do not reflect the underlying challenges and changes in economies (for example population or economic growth); relative opportunities for abatement within them; or what action has so far occurred.

## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

| United Kingdom  European Union | at least -68% on 1990 levels<br>at least -55% on 1990 levels |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Iceland                        | -55% on 1990 levels  | -(   |
| United States of America       | -50-52% on 2005 levels                                       | C/Q,   |
| Norway                         | at least -50% on 1990 levels                                 |  |
| Switzerland                    | at least -50% on 1990 levels                                 | a de la companya de l |
| Japan                          | -46% on 2013 levels  |  |
| Canada                         | -40-45% on 2005 levels                                       |  |
| New Zealand                    | -30% on 2005 levels  |  |
| Australia                      | -26-28% on 2005 levels                                       |  |

21. While the table above refers to similarly developed countries to New Zealand; the image below gives a sense of countries that have updated their NDC and increased ambition.



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# 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution Climate change and New Zealand's foreign policy

- 22. Action on climate change is a critical part of New Zealand's relationships with key partners such as Pacific island countries, the United States, China, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. These key partners pau close attention to our climate policy response. As the Paris Agreement's mitigation and ambition cycle is built on transparency we anticipate that scrutiny of individual country actions (and advocacy to raise ambition) will only grow stronger in the future. Examples of this already occurring include recent climate action summits (such as those held by the UK, USA, and UN Secretary General); and less traditional advocacy s6(a)
- 23. In response to the growing importance and urgency of ambitious climate action, climate change has taken on an increasingly prominent role in broader foreign policy, trade and development arenas and New Zealand's relationships and objectives within these. Examples of this include:
  - 23.1. Pacific Leaders reaffirming that climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific (see Boe Declaration, 2018);
  - 23.2. Recognising that trade policy rules and practices can support and contribute to climate change mitigation, New Zealand has long sought the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies in the WTO, such as fossil fuels, fisheries and agriculture subsidies, and to liberalise trade in environmental goods and services. New Zealand also promotes the development of international carbon markets. Advancing action on trade, climate change and sustainability in the region is also key priority for our APEC21 hosting year.
  - 23.3. New Zealand is also one of six small, trade-dependent countries that are working to use trade measures and disciplines to contribute to addressing the urgent climate change challenge by negotiating the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability.

New Zealand's previous assessment of its highest possible ambition and what a fair and ambitious NDC would be in 2021

24. When considering New Zealand's highest possible ambition it is relevant to consider our last assessment of this (including the economic cost and use of offshore mitigation envisioned at the time) to ensure any proposed NDC does not represent backsliding. If more greater domestic abatement is available at lower costs than was anticipated in 2016 the question arises as to whether the NDC represents the same degree of stretch as the NDC set in 2016 did. This offers the opportunity to reinforce our expectations of the behaviour others should take – e.g. if a target begins to look easier than anticipated at the time of setting countries should reassess and recommit more to the global effort.

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## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

25. In considering options for the NDC it is relevant to note the range of a fair and ambitious NDC for New Zealand that was considerd in 2014/15. This range is set out below as both a reduction on 1990 and 2005 levels.

| Range of potential NDCs considered in 2015         |      | *************************************** |
|--|------|---|
| Expressed as a reduction on 1990 levels            | -10% | -40%                                    |
| Same range expressed as a reduction on 2005 levels | -29% | -53%                                    |

- 26. Note: the current NDC is -30% on 2005 levels. There may be an international perception risk of backsliding, or inconsistency with highest possible ambition if the range / option New Zealand were to consult on in 2021 is less than what was considered in 2014/15.
- 27. The Climate Change Commission recommends, to ensure compatability with a contribution to 1.5°C, that New Zealand increase its NDC to **much more than 36% below 2005** gross levels by 2030 with the likelihood of compatibility increasing as the NDC is strengthened further. They also recommend that "how much the NDC is strengthened beyond 36% should reflect the tolerance for climate and reputational risk and economic impact, and principles for effort sharing, which require political decisions."
- 28. The NDC is an international obligation under the Paris Agreement. Beyond the legal obligations and commitments in the Paris Agreement, how New Zealand's NDC will be regarded by other countries, what is expected of us, and whether it demonstrates leadership by example are important considerations.

s9(2)(g)(i)

- 31. This assessment is based on a number of foreign policy considerations.
  - The NDC is the primary metric by which the world will judge New Zealand's climate ambition. An ambitious update to New Zealand's NDC is an opportunity to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to climate action, to global efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, and to reinforce greater global action through leadership by example.
  - New Zealand is legally required to prepare its NDC with a view to achieving the purposes of the Paris Agreement, including the aim to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. New Zealand has also committed publically to setting its NDC to reflect our highest possible ambition and in a manner that is consistent with the collective aim of peaking greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.
  - An ambitious commitment would match the urgency and scale of action needed globally to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. The greater the increase in ambition of the NDC the more likely the NDC is to be consistent with a greater range of IPCC pathways for limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, a greater range of equity considerations within these; and expectations of New Zealand as a highly developed country globally.

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## 2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution

- Proadingly released by the minister of climate An ambitious commitment would respond proportionately to the gravity of climate change in the Pacific region, recognising the centrality of the Pacific in

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2021 update of New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution Proactively released by the Minister of Chinate Change Annex 1: Legal advice on the Paris Agreement and the setting of





29 January 2021

| Minister of Clir | nate Change               | For information by              | 31 January 202  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|                  |                           |                                 | ש               |
|                  |                           |                                 |                 |
| Release of       | f Climate Change Comi     | mission draft for publ          | ic consultation |
| BRIEFING         | Overview Submission       |                                 |                 |
| DI (ILI II (O    | CVOLVIOW CUSTINGSION      |                                 | ) `             |
| PURPOSE          |                           | the Ministry's initial reaction |                 |
|                  | Commission's 2021 Draft A | dvice for Consultation (the r   | eport).         |
|                  |                           |                                 |                 |
| Tukunga ti       | ūtohua – Recommende       | d referrals                     |                 |
| Minister of For  | eign Affairs              | For information by              | 1 February 2021 |
|                  | 3                         |                                 | , -             |
| Taipitopito      | whakapā - Contact de      | tails                           |                 |
| NAME             | ROLE                      | DIVISION                        | WORK PHONE      |
| Kay Harrison     | Climate Change Ambassador | Climate Change Division         | s9(2)(a)        |
| Todd Croad       | Climate Change Specialist | Climate Change Division         | ,,,,            |
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| Todd Croad   | Climate Change Special | ist Climate Change L                  | Division    |
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|              | eleasedio              |                                       |             |
| 0/1/         |                        |                                       |             |
| Mā to Tari   | Minita a whakakī       | <ul><li>– Minister's Office</li></ul> | to complete |
| ivia to Tail | Willia C Wilakaki      |                                       | to complete |
| Approved     |                        | Noted                                 | Seen        |
| Needs am     | endment                | Declined                              | Withdrawn   |
| Overtaken    | by events              | See Minister's notes                  | 3           |
| Comments     |                        |                                       |             |

# Pito matua – Key points

- The Climate Change Commission will release its 2021 Draft Advice for Consultation (the report) at 2pm on 31 January 2021. The report contains advice on a number of areas, including whether New Zealand's current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is compatible with contributing to global efforts to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. Given the drive for increased action on climate change we anticipate it will attract a high degree of interest from stakeholders, including international partners.
- Your office and the Ministry received embargoed advance copies of the report on 28 January 2021. This submission provides the Ministry's initial reaction to the report.
- As draft advice, released by an independent expert group for consultation, we consider the report presents little risk. It will attract attention from stakeholders, however, and potentially could be taken as a premature statement of New Zealand's position.
- There are several matters of interest to international audiences which will require careful management as the process moves forward from the Commission's consultation and final advice, to the Government's response. These include:
  - raising the possibility of a 'split gas' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) may add to misunderstandings that New Zealand does not already have an all sectors all gases NDC, and that we are not taking substantial (world-leading) action on agricultural emissions (e.g. mandatory pricing by 2025);
  - inconsistency between the method used by the Commission to calculate NDC emissions budgets and the method used by the Government (for our Kyoto Protocol and 2020 targets, and when estimating the emissions budget of our first NDC) may create confusion. It is unclear how this difference impacts on comparability of ambition. It will be important to ensure that questions of ambition are seen to be the result of real action and not obscured by differences in calculation method;
  - the numerous and binary references regarding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the report (and potential institutionalisation of this in our NDC) cut across our long-standing negotiation position against bifurcation and may be questioned by other developed countries. Commentary around including non-mitigation commitments in an NDC may have a similar effect;
  - messages from the report and about the 2050 target which seem inconsistent<sup>1</sup> risk creating confusion regarding the NDC, the proposed budgets, the 2050 target, and limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.
- We anticipate that other governments will pay keen attention to both the content of the report and the timelines for our Government's response (given New Zealand's submission to the UNFCCC in April 2020, outlining the process of seeking Commission advice on the NDC).

1. the 2050 target is compatible with the 1.5 degree temperature limitation goal;

3. the current NDC is more stringent than these budgets; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For example, that:

<sup>2.</sup> the proposed budgets put us in line with this target;

<sup>4.</sup> the current NDC is incompatible with making a contribution to global efforts to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.

- s6(a)
- If you agree, if asked for comment the Ministry will welcome the work of the Climate Change Commission and note:
  - i) The Climate Change Commission is an independent, expert advisory body and the recent release of draft advice is for public consultation.
  - ii) Once final advice is provided by the Commission, the Government will consider its findings.

Rosemary Paterson for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

1 Note the content of this briefing Yes / No

2 Agree to MFAT's proposed approach for responding to potential enquiries about the report Yes / No

Refer a copy of this submission to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Yes / No Nanaia Mahuta.

Hon James Shaw Minister of Climate Change

Date: / /