

22 February 2022

Personal details removed for proactive
release

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

I refer to your email of 1 February 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *Do you have a carbon neutral plan by 2025, and if so, what is the official wording of it?*
2. *Do you have a carbon neutral team or committee? If so, how many are in this team, and are they trained/experts?*
3. *How much carbon do you emit/how are your carbon emissions measured?*
4. *When do you plan to phase out coal?*
5. *Have you transitioned to EVs and or/hybrids? Have you begun to downsize your fleet*
6. *How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

I have responded to each question of your request below.

Question one: *Do you have a carbon neutral plan by 2025, and if so, what is the official wording of it?*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has not yet developed its carbon neutral plan. MFAT is currently collating three years of emissions data to inform its emissions reduction targets and plan, which will be published by December 2022.

Question two: *Do you have a carbon neutral team or committee? If so, how many are in this team, and are they trained/experts?*

MFAT established a Decarbonisation Programme in August 2021. The Programme is currently resourced by approximately 2.0 FTEs – one full-time programme lead, plus support from other teams (procurement, asset management, energy, etc) across the organisation. The programme lead has a 20+ year technical background in environment and sustainability initiatives, including organisational sustainability. MFAT also has a Kaitiaki/Sustainability Network which promotes internal sustainability initiatives; this staff network is represented in both New Zealand and MFAT's offshore offices.

Question three: *How much carbon do you emit/how are your carbon emissions measured?*

MFAT is in the process of finalising its emission inventories for financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. These figures will be published in MFAT's 2021-22 Annual Report later this year. The figures will also be publicly available on [Toitū Envirocare \(toitu.co.nz\)](https://toitu.co.nz), (MFAT's third-party verification provider) following its verification process. MFAT's emissions are measured using emissions data provided by third-party suppliers as well as through internal information sources.

Question four: *When do you plan to phase out coal?*

MFAT does not use coal in any of its operations.

Question five: *Have you transitioned to EVs and or/hybrids? Have you begun to downsize your fleet?*

MFAT's entire vehicle fleet is offshore. Fleet purchase decisions include emissions criteria, and we have started purchasing lower-emission vehicles where local conditions (market maturity; adequate charging infrastructure; etc) and business needs allow. Fleet optimisation work is expected to take place in 2022

Question six: *How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

MFAT's head office in Wellington has a 4-star NABERSNZ tenancy rating.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade