

Catherine Wedd
Chair
Environment Select Committee
PARLIAMENT

28 July 2025

Tēna koe Catherine Wedd

Thank you for your request to He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission (the Commission) for a written response regarding the 2023 report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment ‘How ministers and officials developed the first emissions reduction plan – and how to do it better next time’. Below are some high-level reflections in response.

The Commission’s role is to provide independent expert advice to the Government on mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects.¹ We also monitor and review the Government’s progress towards Aotearoa New Zealand’s emissions reduction and adaptation goals.

While we have a monitoring role, we do not assess the *processes* used in the preparation of Emission Reduction or National Adaptation Plans. The 2023 report from the Parliamentary Commissioner therefore provides additional value by offering independent insights alongside our reporting.

Independent advice and monitoring supports long-term climate policy and accountability

The Commission was established to provide consistent and impartial advice across multiple electoral cycles. Our advice informs Government decisions and increases public transparency and accessibility of information about the Government’s progress on climate change action. By delivering on our purpose, we help deliver long-term effective climate policy and enable progress to be assessed.

As Aotearoa New Zealand progresses through the full policy cycle outlined in the Act, from emissions budgets to implementation and monitoring, the Commission’s advice supports Government to navigate informed choices and trade-offs to achieve climate goals.

Monitoring is integral to this process, not only providing transparency on progress but also enabling continual learning and improvement over time.

Credible climate policy requires: clear direction, the flexibility to adapt, and engagement that reflects the realities people face on the ground

¹ He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission (the Commission) is an independent Crown entity established under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the Act).



We see climate change policy as most effective when it takes a long-term view, offering clear direction and predictability, while remaining responsive to emerging technologies, changing economics and evolving evidence on climate impacts.

The credibility of climate policy rests on consistent, impartial advice that reflects the best available evidence and clearly explains trade-offs. This approach reduces long-term risk, proactively manages uncertainty, keeps options open and allows for course correction over time.

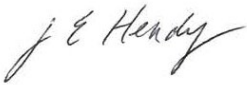
Strong mitigation and adaptation outcomes are built on the integrity of the underlying evidence base, independent analysis, cross sector dialogue and transparent frameworks that endure across political cycles.

For climate change advice to be practical, relevant, and enduring, it must be informed by a wide range of perspectives from across Aotearoa New Zealand; **especially from those most affected by impacts of climate change or costs of transition.**

The Commission works inclusively and collaboratively to ensure lived experience and on-the-ground realities are reflected in our work. By engaging early and often, we aim to build a shared understanding of both the challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a low-emissions, climate-resilient economy; one that is grounded in equity, feasibility, and long-term impact.

Thank you for your invitation to provide the Commission's views on the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report.

Nāku noa, nā



Jo Hendy
Chief Executive