

# Whakahekenga rehukino

This summary gives a snapshot of progress, risks and further opportunities centred on iwi/Māori. It also looks at the impacts of Government policy and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on iwi/Māori and on the Crown–Māori relationship.

## Overall findings of the 2025 report

- Aotearoa New Zealand is making progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions – net emissions fell by 2% between 2022 and 2023.
- Emissions are on track for the first budget (for 2022–2025) but will need more work – urgently – to set up for future budgets and the 2050 target.
- Action across a wide range of sectors can strengthen the country’s resilience to changing global conditions. There are many viable opportunities for further reductions that could reduce risk for the economy and return other benefits to the country.

## What we heard

- Iwi/Māori provide leadership in reducing emissions in communities and sectors across Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as in responding to the effects of climate change.
- Many iwi/Māori are focusing on emissions reductions in their asset management and future planning, in alignment with an intergenerational perspective. Similarly, many iwi/Māori businesses bring an ao Māori perspective to their decisions and are making investment decisions that align with their obligations to future generations and kaitiaki duties.
- It is necessary to resource iwi/Māori climate leadership in line with iwi/Māori priorities and aspirations.

## What our analysis shows

### The Government's partnerships with iwi/Māori

- The Government's equitable transition strategy was previously the main lever for partnering with iwi/Māori through the transition to a low-emissions economy. This was removed during the amendment of the first emissions reduction plan in 2024.
- In the second emissions reduction plan, the Government highlighted the Māori climate platform as the key mechanism to partner with iwi/Māori on responding to climate change. The platform's funding is due to end in June 2026. We also heard in engagement that the platform's existing funding is not adequate to meet its objectives.
- The Government is resourcing other iwi/Māori climate initiatives, such as funding Māori-led regional infrastructure projects through the Regional Infrastructure Fund. There are benefits to having multiple mechanisms to accelerate emissions reductions, and we encourage the Government to continue this approach alongside an appropriately resourced Māori climate platform.
- Partnering with iwi/Māori on service delivery and implementation is an opportunity for the Government to deliver services while reducing the impacts of emissions reductions on Māori.
- Ensuring iwi/Māori are able to quantify their emissions profile would allow greater understanding of their contribution to the national emissions profile and enable more equitable policy design.

### The importance of mātauranga Māori

- Recognising the importance of mātauranga Māori in the climate response is a way for the Government to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi and the Crown–Māori relationship. There are opportunities for the Government to support hapū-led inclusion of mātauranga Māori in climate action, which will have benefits for all of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- We encourage the Government to work alongside iwi/Māori partners and in consultation with hapū on the appropriate role of mātauranga Māori in the science system reform process, public research institutes, and across policy design and implementation beyond the science sector.

### Barriers and impacts

- Historical injustices have resulted in contemporary poorer outcomes for Māori in health, education, employment, household wealth and from land use. This has contributed to some climate action having greater impacts on iwi/Māori, and also creates some barriers to participation in reducing emissions. Understanding this historical context and the resulting contemporary circumstances is needed to avoid policies that compound these factors.
- The current high electricity prices – which stem from longstanding energy supply and competition issues – create an elevated risk of households not being able to afford the power they need. There is a risk that the Government's measures to address energy hardship will not address the specific circumstances of Māori households.
- Māori businesses are significant participants in emissions-intensive sectors and may be disproportionately impacted by emissions reduction policies.
- The Government has indicated it expects the private sector to lead the low-emissions transition. Māori small-to-medium enterprises have well-documented barriers to accessing capital. Removing those barriers, and constraints on developing and managing Māori land, would enable full participation by the Māori economy in the low-emissions transition.

## An ao Māori approach to monitoring emissions reductions

- He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission is building its own capabilities and internal resources to support the analysis used in its monitoring work. We will continue this approach by working with iwi/Māori to develop indicators that have their foundations in the aspirations and priorities of Māori communities, as well as in mātauranga Māori.

### About emissions reduction monitoring

Each year, He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission (the Commission) independently monitors Aotearoa New Zealand's progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These reports form a picture over time, showing how the country is tracking towards its climate change goals.

The 2025 report tracks emissions reductions overall, as well as the government's progress towards meeting the first, second and third emissions budgets, which cover 2022–2025, 2026–2030 and 2031–2035 respectively. These emissions budgets are the stepping stones towards the country's 2050 targets.

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 requires the Government to include a strategy in its emissions reduction plan to mitigate the impacts that emissions reductions will have on iwi and Māori. The Commission assesses the adequacy of the Government's plan, and considers the Crown–Māori relationship, te ao Māori, and specific effects on iwi and Māori.

### Want to read more?

A dedicated chapter within the report, Whakahekenga rehukino, gives more detail on progress, risks and further opportunities centred on iwi/Māori.

There are also summaries of the agriculture; waste and fluorinated gases; transport; energy, industry and buildings; and removals sectors.

The summaries and full report – along with an 'At a glance' overview and a one-page summary of our findings – are on the Commission's website: [climatecommission.govt.nz/ERM-2025](https://climatecommission.govt.nz/ERM-2025).