



Ref: OIA 2025-008

[REDACTED]

29 August 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 21 June 2025 seeking the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Any advice since 27 November 2023 that discusses dismantling the Climate Change Commission or reducing roles, functions, tasks, delegations, responsibilities of the Climate Change Commission”

“Any correspondence since 27 November 2023 from and to any Government Minister or their office that discusses dismantling the Climate Change Commission or reducing roles, functions, tasks, delegations, responsibilities of the Climate Change Commission”

The Commission has considered this request in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 12 August 2025 we extended the timeframe for responding to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

Response

I have interpreted your request to be for information relating to dismantling or reducing the duties of the Climate Change Commission as a whole.

I have identified three areas of work that fall within scope of the part of your request that asks for information relating to *“reducing roles, functions, tasks delegations, responsibilities of the Climate Change Commission”*. These are outlined below and as well as the related documents I am releasing to you.

Agricultural Emissions Pricing Function

In Budget 2023, the Commission received \$3 million of funding per annum to support a possible function advising on agricultural emissions pricing, which sat outside our statutory work programme as outlined in the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA). In March 2024 the Minister of Climate Change advised in his 2024/25 Letter of Expectations that the funding for this possible function would be returned to the centre. This possible function no longer sits with the Commission.

The Minister’s letter and the Commission’s response to the Minister are attached and noted as **Documents 1** and **2** in the document schedule below.

CCRA Review

In 2024, the Minister of Climate Change invited the Commission to provide proposals for amendments to improve the operation of the CCRA. The Commission provided eight recommendations on technical and procedural matters intended to increase the efficiency and efficacy of the Commission's operations. These recommendations were outlined in a letter to the Minister which is available on our website (**Document 3**).

In February 2025 the Minister responded advising that the Ministry for the Environment would be developing policy proposals for amendments to the CCRA that could reduce unnecessary workstreams and reporting. This letter is attached and noted as **Document 4** in the document schedule below.

Some information in **Document 4** has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) as it contains advice related to an executive government decision-making process that is currently active. Disclosure of this information would harm the orderly and effective conduct of the relevant decision-making process. In making this decision, we consider that the public interest in this matter does not outweigh the need to withhold the information at this time.

This work was also noted in the Minister's 2025/26 Letter of Expectations, and the Commission's response. These letters are attached and noted as **Documents 5** and **6** in the document schedule below.

Section 5K request on NDC2

In October 2023, the Minister of Climate Change requested advice from the Commission on Aotearoa New Zealand's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2) under the Paris Agreement. This request was made under section 5K of the CCRA which allows the Minister of Climate Change to make specific requests for advice at any time. At the time the Commission indicated that additional resource would be needed before work could start.

In May 2024 the Commission's Board was provided with an update on the section 5k request which advised that the Commission had been working with Ministry for Environment officials as they develop options for the Minister to re-scope the Terms of Reference for the request. The Board paper on with this advice is attached and noted as **Document 9** in the document schedule.

In June 2024, the Minister of Climate Change requested a report from the Commission on levels of domestic emissions reduction New Zealand could feasibly achieve as part of NDC2. This request was made under section 5K of the CCRA and superseded the October 2023 request. The June 2024 request from the Minister and the Commission's response are both available on our website (**Documents 7 and 8**).

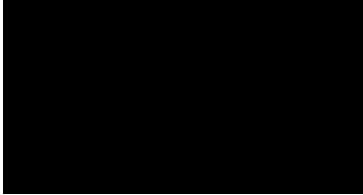
Where information within the scope of your request is publicly available, we have provided you with the links to our website. In this respect, we are relying on section 18(d) of the Act to not provide you with that information directly.

I am unable to provide you with advice or correspondence that discusses dismantling the Climate Change Commission as no such information exists. I am relying on section 18(e) of the Act to not provide you with that information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Nunns
General Manager, Corporate Accountability and Operations

Annex One

Doc #	Document date	Description	Decision
1	4 March 2024	2024/25 Letter of Expectations for CCC	Released in full
2	22 May 2024	Response to Letter of Expectations 2024/25	Released in full
3	28 November 2024	Letter to the Minister of Climate Change - CCRA Technical Amendments	N/A Publicly Available
4	11 February 2025	CCRA Amendments Response letter from the Minister of Climate Change	Information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
5	12 March 2025	2025/26 Letter of Expectations for CCC	Released in full
6	12 May 2025	Response to Letter of Expectations 2025/26	Released in full
7	17 June 2024	Letter from the Minister requesting a report from the Commission to inform Aotearoa's domestic contribution to the second nationally determined contribution	N/A Publicly Available
8	6 August 2024	Letter from the Minister confirming finalised Terms of Reference to inform Aotearoa's domestic contribution to the second nationally determined contribution	N/A Publicly Available
9	29 May 2024	NDC2 Board update paper 28 May 2024	Released in full