



Ref: OIA 2025-013



14 November 2025

Tēnā koe



Thank you for your email of 17 October 2025. Due to the nature of your request, we are treating it as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I'm trying to understand the Climate Commission's interaction with the Government regarding changes to the emissions budgets to reflect methodological changes to the GHG Inventory. (Footnotes 1 and 3 [here](#))

Did the Climate Commission write a separate letter to the Government advising them to modify their budgets in light of these methodological changes? If so did the Government respond on this point directly?

Please provide documents and emails that cover this issue."

Your request refers to the following footnotes in the Commission's July 2025 *Monitoring Report: Emissions Reduction*:

- [\[1\]](#) *Methodological changes in New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory (to improve how emissions are measured and reported) have resulted in a lower level of real-world reductions needed to meet the current first emissions budget. The Commission has separately recommended the first three budgets are revised to bring them in line with the intent when they were set.*
- [\[3\]](#) *The Commission has recommended the first three budgets are revised to bring them in line with the intent when they were set – see [About emissions budgets and reduction plans](#)*

Response

Under section 5ZE of the Climate Change Response Act, the Commission is required to provide advice to the Government on setting emissions budgets every five years. This includes providing advice on whether any of the budgets already set should be revised because there have been methodological improvements to the way that emissions are measured and reported.



In November 2024, the Commission provided advice on the fourth emissions budget (2036-2040) and as part of that advice recommended that earlier emissions budgets be revised. Our advice reflected that improvements in the way emissions are measured and reported meant the current budget levels no longer represented the level of reduction of actual emissions that was intended when the budgets were set. Updating the budgets would allow ambition on emissions reductions to be sustained.

The recommended revisions due to methodological changes were for the first emissions budget (2022-2025) to be revised down by -7 MtCO₂e and for the second emissions budget (2026-2030) to be revised down by -1 MtCO₂e.

The information you seek is contained in the Commission's advice on the fourth emissions budget which is publicly available on our website here: [Advice on the fourth emissions budget \(2036–2040\)](#). As the above information is publicly available online, section 18(d) of the Act supports our decision to not supply it here.

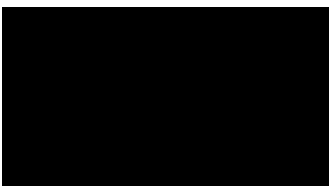
The Government was due to respond to the Commission's budget advice by 31 December 2025. However, in October the Government signalled that they intend to revise the legislation so that the decision on these would be made by the end of 2027, and that is when the Commission now expects to receive a response. As this information does not exist, we rely on section 18(e) of the Act to not provide it.

We have not provided the Government with a separate letter on the changes to methodological changes recommended in our fourth emissions budget advice. As no such information exists, we rely on section 18(e) of the Act to not provide it.

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
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