



Ref: OIA 2025-010

09 October 2025

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request of 15 September 2025 seeking the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *“What process does the climate commission have to prevent inappropriate decisions being made or policy advice being diluted if a commissioner has direct links to a fossil fuel business development?”*
- *What discussion has the Climate Commission had with deputy Climate Commissioner Lisa Tumahai in 2024 and 2025 regarding her potential conflict of interest (percent or otherwise) Re her conflicting roles with emissions reduction advocacy and the coal industry (emissions expansion).*
- *What process is in place to stop regulatory capture of the Climate Commission by vested interests. What discussion has the board of the Climate Commission had regarding her role in Bathurst Resources and the coal sector?”*

The Commission has considered your request in accordance with the Act, and we can advise as follows.

## Response

We can confirm that under the Commission’s Interests Policy (available on the Commission’s website [here](#)), it is the responsibility of Commissioners to advise the Commission of any potential, perceived or actual interests and update the Commission’s records of their interests as necessary. The Commission’s Interests Policy does not *prevent* conflicts of interest from occurring, it exists so the Commission can manage those declared interests in accordance with its obligations under the Crown Entities Act 2004, relevant case law, government policy and the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability.

As we have previously informed you, because of their skills, experience, and knowledge, it is not unusual for Commissioners to have interests that relate to the Commission’s work.

As you are aware, in April 2021, Ms Tumahai disclosed potential/perceived conflicts of interest to the (then) Chair of the Climate Change Commission to consider prior to the effective date of her husband's directorship.

Further to that, in February 2025, Ms Tumahai discussed her conflict of interest in relation to Arahura Holdings Ltd. Ms Tumahai and the Commission agreed that it should be listed as a potential conflict of interest, and our interest register was updated accordingly. There have been no other discussions about this. Our interest register was updated on 16 July 2025 and can be found [here](#).

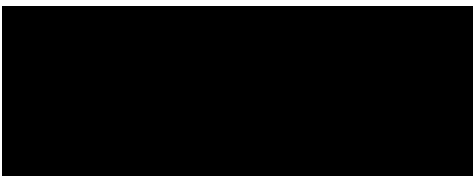
We have interpreted your mention of “regulatory capture” as a reference to the process for managing Commissioner interests, and which we have described above. Our Commissioners maintain clear boundaries between their work for the Commission and other roles they may hold. As all Commissioners are advised of any relevant interests, and in combination with the robust discussion that occurs at Board meetings, we consider this is sufficient to manage any potential risk.

Since September 2021, the Commission has responded to several requests from you relating to Commissioner interests. In response to these previous requests, we have directed you to our publicly available information relating to these interests, and provided you with the Commission’s relevant policies and, on occasion, links to pertinent Board meetings. The Commission does not hold any further information on this topic, over and above that which is publicly available and that has already been supplied to you.

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](http://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



**Grant Blackwell**  
**Chief Science Adviser**