



Ref: OIA 2026-016



19 September 2026

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request of 23 August 2026 seeking the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"1. Scenarios currently used

Any documents that identify or confirm the specific emissions scenarios, Shared Socio-economic Pathways, or high-end pathways the Commission is currently using in its modelling or advice on:

- emissions budgets; and/or*
- NZ ETS unit limits and price control settings.*

2. ScenarioMIP-CMIP7

Any documents created or received by the Commission since 1 April 2026 that:

- discuss, reference, or analyse the ScenarioMIP-CMIP7 framework paper (Van Vuuren et al., 7 April 2026); or*
- refer to the revised assessment of the plausibility of SSP5-8.5 (or equivalent high-end pathways) in the context of the Commission's work on emissions budgets or ETS settings.*

3. Review or update of advice

Any documents that record whether the Commission has considered, or has been asked to consider, reviewing or updating its existing projections, modelling assumptions, or advice on emissions budgets or ETS settings in light of the April 2026 ScenarioMIP-CMIP7 update.

I am seeking only existing documents. I am not asking the Commission to form new opinions or create new analysis."

We note that this request is a follow-up to your previous request of 23 June 2026 (our reference OIA 2026-009). The Commission has considered your request in accordance with the Act.



Response

Part 1

The specific emissions scenarios used in the Commission's modelling and advice on emissions budgets and NZ ETS unit limits and price control settings are publicly available.

Emissions budgets

The emissions scenarios used in the Commission's most recent emissions budget advice are described in the *Modelling and data* section of the *Advice on the Fourth Emissions Budget (2036-2040)*, and are available [on our website here](#). The emissions scenarios developed for this work were produced in-house and did not use Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs) or "high-end pathways".

NZ ETS unit limits

The Commission's April 2026 NZ ETS settings advice used, as an input to its recommendations on emissions caps and unit limits, the [Government's emissions projections](#) published in October 2025 and updated in early 2026. The Commission did not use SSPs or "high-end pathways" for this advice. Further information is available in the Commission's NZ ETS settings advice report available [on our website here](#).

NZ ETS price control settings

For NZ ETS price control settings advice, the Commission uses in-house scenario modelling to test the impact of uncertainties such as economic growth, population growth, fossil fuel prices, and the effects of non-ETS policies on the emissions prices that might be needed to meet emissions budgets. The most recent modelling of this type was undertaken in 2025 and is described in the technical annex to the Commission's 2025 NZ ETS settings advice, [available on our website here](#). The Commission does not use SSPs or "high-end pathways" in this work.

The information requested in part 1 of your request is publicly available through the documents and publications identified above. As such, we rely on section 18(d) of the Act to not provide it here because the information is publicly available.

Part 2

The Commission has identified two documents within scope of this part of your request:

- A paper provided to the Board that discusses updates to climate scenarios in relation to *Van Vuuren et al.*, 7 April 2026 ; and
- A slide from a Board pack that references climate scenario developments.

While neither document undertakes a detailed analysis of the ScenarioMIP-CMIP7 framework paper (Van Vuuren et al., 7 April 2026), both contain information relevant to your request and are attached as Document 1 and Document 2.

To the extent your request seeks documents that specifically discuss, reference, or analyse the ScenarioMIP-CMIP7 framework paper or the revised assessment of the plausibility of SSP5-8.5 (or equivalent high-end pathways) in the context of the Commission's work on emissions budgets or ETS settings, no further documents have been identified within scope of the request.

Part 3

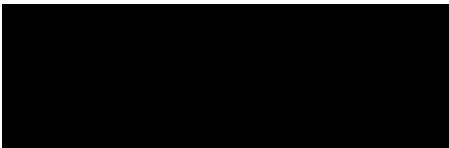
The Commission has not considered nor has it been asked to consider "reviewing or updating its existing projections, modelling assumptions, or advice on emissions budgets or ETS settings in light of the April 2026

ScenarioMIP-CMIP7 update". As such, we rely on section 18(e) of the Act to not provide it here, as the information does not exist.

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



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