



**Briefing to the  
Incoming Minister of Climate Change  
Hon Simon Watts  
6 December 2023**

## Welcome to your new portfolio.

In addition to your other responsibilities as the Minister of Climate Change, you have a legislatively prescribed relationship with He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission (the Commission). There are two parts to this:

- you have statutory responsibilities under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 in relation to the advice that is provided to you by the Commission; and
- you are responsible for the Crown's interests in, and relationship with, the Commission as an independent Crown entity.

This briefing covers both aspects.

## The Commission at a glance

- The Climate Change Response Act (the Act) sets out what we must deliver and what we must consider in our work. Our role is to provide independent, expert advice on how to reduce emissions and how to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We also have a role to monitor and review the Government's progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals.
- Our work is grounded in evidence, and then we apply expert judgment. We use data, research, modelling, best practice and feedback from stakeholders around the country to develop our advice. Where relevant we make comparisons with trading partners and competitors and draw from best practice internationally.
- We get out and meet people, including in the regions, to listen to their views and understand the impacts on them of climate change and climate change policy. We also run formal public consultations for some of our work.

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## Opportunities for our country

Transitioning to a low emissions economy while becoming more climate resilient is the economic growth opportunity of the 21st century. A low emissions future is likely to be less vulnerable to disruption, more affordable, healthier, and more sustainable than a high emissions lifestyle.

The biggest emissions reduction opportunity for Aotearoa New Zealand in the near term is to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy to power our industries, buildings and transport systems. This is a critical step where investments made now will more than pay for themselves in the long term. To meet the second emissions budget (2025-2030), the largest share of emissions reductions (around 40%) is expected to come from energy and industry.

The slower the world is at reducing emissions, the greater the adaptation burden becomes. Working together in our communities, Aotearoa New Zealand can prepare and adapt before we experience the worst.

Delaying decisions will leave us with fewer choices for how we adapt. Every dollar invested in proactive adaptation will not only save more in damage and lost productivity, response and recovery, but also reduce the social, cultural and financial toll on people and communities.

### The Government has choices about how to meet the country's climate goals

We provide independent, expert advice to support well-informed decisions by successive governments. The Government has choices about how to respond, and how to meet climate goals.

Whatever the mix of policies the Government decides on to reduce emissions, they must add-up to meet our immediate climate goals and keep the country on the path to meet our legislated targets while building climate resilience.

We all have a role to play, but policies that support reducing greenhouse gas emissions provide direction to businesses, communities and households and open up better choices for us all.

Investing in reducing domestic emissions now will accelerate Aotearoa New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy and reduce the need to purchase additional emission reductions offshore to meet our existing international commitments.

### The NZ Emissions Trading Scheme is a key tool to reduce emissions

Getting the NZ ETS settings right is critical to achieving Aotearoa New Zealand's climate goals. The decisions the Government makes over the next three years will have long-lasting implications for Aotearoa New Zealand's transition to a low emissions future.

Emissions pricing alone is not enough to take us to a low emissions future – targeted complementary policies will be critical to securing equitable outcomes, and addressing barriers to change that pricing is less able to influence.

The country's climate policies need to encourage both reducing emissions and enhancing removals (such as planting forests), as both have essential roles to play in an equitable and sustainable low emissions transition.

## Clear and stable climate policy is needed

As an independent Crown entity, our focus is on clear and stable policy direction. Clarity and certainty will give households, businesses, and communities confidence to take up and invest in low emissions opportunities and develop effective adaptation to the changing climate risks.

Our independence enables us to provide impartial advice. As Minister of Climate Change, you will need to take bold decisions on behalf of and with Government to make the most of the opportunities ahead of Aotearoa New Zealand to transition to a low emissions climate-resilient economy – some of which need to be considered immediately.

## Emissions budgets and targets by the numbers

The government's emissions budgets (EB)			
	EB1	EB2	EB3
All gases, net (AR5)	290 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e	305 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e	240 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e
Annual average	72.5 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e	61 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e	48 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e
For the second emissions budget			
Estimated total quantity of emissions reductions needed	EB2: 43.5 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount expected to come from energy and industry	EB2: 17.4 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount expected to come from the transport sector	EB2: 7-8 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount expected to come from the agriculture sector	EB2: 7-8 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount expected to come from the forestry sector	EB2: 7-8 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount expected to come from waste and F-gases	EB2: 3.3 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Effort needed to meet the second emissions budget			
Amount of emissions reductions required to meet EB2, in addition to policies and measures already in place	EB2: 20.7 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
Amount needed if further planned policies and measures from first emission reduction plan were put in place	EB2: 14.0 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e		
\$ investment in renewables			
\$ investment in renewables total across electricity generation, transmission and distribution including BAU spend, network upgrades/enhancements, and to bring things up to current standard	\$42 billion by <b>2030</b>		
\$ health benefits of reducing emissions			
Cost of health impacts due to air pollution costs in Aotearoa New Zealand	\$15.6 billion <b>per year</b>		

\$ savings- replacing fossil fuels with renewables			
Amount replacing fossil fuels with renewable electricity in areas like transport and heating could save businesses and households in Aotearoa New Zealand by the 2040s	\$2 billion <b>per year</b>		
GDP - cost of delay			
Cost of delay on GDP as a % of GDP without delay	<b>2050:</b> GDP could be around 1.2% lower in 2050 than it would be otherwise		
Cost of delaying key actions like transitioning to electric vehicles and embedding more efficient farm practices	<b>2050:</b> Level of GDP could fall by around 2.3%		
Gross electricity demand increase			
Projected increase in electricity demand compared to 2021	<b>By 2035:</b> 26%	<b>By 2050:</b> 65%	
Generation needed to meet anticipated demand	1 TWh per year from 2025, the equivalent of around two very large wind farms being completed every year		
EVs now and needed by 2030			
	<b>2023</b>	<b>By 2030</b>	<b>By 2035</b>
Light EVs now and needed by 2030	100,000 EVs currently	~680,000 EVs, (or a 7x increase)	~1.8million EVs (or an 18x increase)
Forests - scale of actual planting			
New exotic forest estimated to have been planted in 2022	64,000 ha in <b>2022</b>		
New exotic forest baseline projection when the emissions budgets were set	32,000 ha per year between <b>2022 - 2030</b>		
Forests - demonstration path			
Total exotic afforestation in the updated demonstration path	500,000 ha over the period <b>2021–2035</b>		
Total native afforestation in the updated demonstration path	280,000 ha over the period <b>2021–2035</b>		
Native afforestation rates assumed by the demonstration path by 2030	25,000 ha per year by <b>2030</b>		

## Key events or issues for your attention over the next 90 days

### Commission's advice on the second emissions reduction plan

On 28 November 2023 the Commission provided you with our final advice on the next emissions reduction plan (the advice). This advice provides a strategic direction for policy and recommendations on the most urgent, highest priority actions required to achieve Aotearoa New Zealand's 2026-2030 emissions budget and enable the country to meet its future emissions reduction goals.

You are required to present the advice in the House no later than 10 working days after receiving it, which is on or before 12 December 2023.

We are required to make the advice publicly available as soon as practicable after you present it to the House, but *no later than* 20 working days after we have provided it to you.

Previously, the Commission has supported the Minister in releasing final advice by publishing it on our website once you have tabled it in the House and made any public statements.

While the second emissions budget (for 2026-2030) has been set, the Government needs a plan to deliver on it. As the Minister of Climate Change, you will be responsible for delivering the next emissions reduction plan for Aotearoa New Zealand by 31 December 2024. Officials from the Ministry for the Environment Manatū Mō Te Taiao are responsible for providing your Office with advice on this.

### Commissioner appointments

There are two current Climate Change Commissioners whose terms end in mid-December 2023.

As the Minister of Climate Change you are responsible for the appointment of Commissioners supported by a nominating committee run out of the Ministry for the Environment. The Commission understands that the nominating committee is in a position to provide recommendations to you on appointments/reappointments with respect to these two positions.

### Judicial review

An application for judicial review relating to certain aspects of Ināia tonu nei (our first piece of advice to the Government) and subsequent decisions by the Minister of Climate Change was made in 2022 by Lawyers for Climate Action New Zealand Incorporated (LCANZI), with the High Court finding in favour of the Commission and the Minister.

An appeal on the High Court judgment was heard from 22-23 November 2023. The Court of Appeal has reserved its decision.

## About the Climate Change Commission

He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission is an independent Crown entity established by the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (the Act) to:

- provide expert, evidence-based advice to successive governments on mitigating climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change
- monitor and review progress towards emissions reduction and adaptation goals.

As an independent Crown entity, we are not subject to direction from the government in providing this advice and monitoring and reviewing this progress.

The Commission is supported by a Board of Commissioners from diverse fields. Our staff have a range of expertise, including public policy, kaupapa Māori, agriculture, climate science, economics, energy, forests, health, modelling, transport, urban planning, adaptation and waste. **Appendix One** provides more detail on the Commissioners and the Senior Leadership Team.

The scope and timeframes for the Commission's advice are set out in the Climate Change Response Act. The Minister of Climate Change may also make a specific request to the Commission for advice on any topic.

The Act requires the Commission to draw from the best available evidence and analysis and think broadly about the impacts of climate change and the implications for Aotearoa New Zealand over time.

The Commission's impact, and the public benefit we deliver, stems from the quality of our independent, expert analysis and advice, and the engagement, consultation and communication that underpins it.

Engagement is at the heart of all we do – we listen and have conversations across the motu, in all regions and with all groups who have an interest in climate change. We take the time needed to talk to individuals and groups including businesses, communities, and iwi/Māori – whether they agree with our advice or not.

### The Climate Change Response Act sets out roles and responsibilities

The Act, which established the Climate Change Commission, puts in place a legal framework to support Aotearoa New Zealand to respond to climate change and meet its international obligations. It also establishes the NZ ETS.

The Act passed with multi-party support and is the product of Aotearoa New Zealand's international and national commitments to addressing climate change. Both the Commission and the Government of the day are bound by it.

Under the Act you have mandatory functions and responsibilities specific to the Climate Change Commission and the advice we provide. This includes:

- recommending the appointment of Commission members,
- responding to the Commission's progress reports on the national adaptation plan, the national climate change risk assessment, NZ ETS, the 2050 target review (including review of inclusion of emissions from international shipping and aviation), as well as advice on emissions budgets.



How the Government responds to our advice is an important part of the Act's accountability architecture. The requirement for the Minister to set out the reasons for any departures from the Commission's advice provides a level of transparency to the public to clearly set out the considerations the Government took into account and how its decision is still consistent with the goals and purpose of the Act.

You are also required to prepare and set emissions budgets and prepare emissions reduction plans following receipt and consideration of advice from the Commission.

The Act also set out a number of requirements which are intended to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

As Minister of Climate Change you are responsible for the Crown's relationship with and interests in the Commission as an independent Crown entity. The Ministry for the Environment is responsible on your behalf for monitoring our performance as an independent Crown entity and supporting you to ensure good governance in our organisation through effective succession planning and appointments for our Board. We provide performance reporting to the Ministry on a quarterly basis.

As Minister of Climate Change, you are a member of the Climate Response Ministerial Group (CRMG). The CRMG was established in December 2020 and is responsible for cross-sectoral matters relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change response. The work of the CRMG is supported by the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, an interdepartmental executive board established by Cabinet in 2022. This level of coordination across Ministerial portfolios is essential to ensuring joined up decision making across the many areas impacted by Climate Change policy.

### *Our role and responsibilities*

The Commission's work programme is defined by the Act. We are set up to provide independent, expert, evidence-based advice to successive Governments to inform necessary policy and legislative decisions, to help Aotearoa New Zealand transition to a thriving, climate-resilient and low emissions future.

The Commission has a range of considerations in the Act to ensure our advice is sound and robust, including the requirement to engage with the public as a key audience, across regions, communities, and businesses, and to undertake any other consultation we consider necessary.

The Commission must give specific consideration to the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori, and specific effects on iwi/Māori in our advice. Alongside this, we recognise, and value, other forms of expert knowledge, such as mātauranga Māori.

**Appendix Two** provides an overview of the Commission's role in Aotearoa New Zealand's climate policy and action system.

### *How we can work with you and your Office*

A regular six-weekly meeting between you, the Board Chair and Chief Executive allows for updates on our work programme and any specific areas of significance. We will coordinate with your Office on details for any meeting requirements you may have.

While we do not have ministerial servicing responsibility (which is held by the Ministry for the Environment), the Commission provides your Office draft responses to Written Parliamentary Questions (WPs) where they are applicable to our organisation. We also contribute to draft WPQ

responses and supporting material for Oral Parliamentary Questions the Ministry prepares for you, when required.

As Minister of Climate Change you are able to request that we prepare reports to the Government on matters related to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to the effects of climate change. This can only be done in accordance with section 5k of the Act and must involve consulting the Commission about the terms of reference before the request is made.

In line with the “no surprises” principle, the Commission will inform you and your Office promptly of matters of significance within our portfolio responsibilities, particularly where these matters may be controversial or may become the subject of public debate.

#### *How we work with Parliament*

As an independent Crown entity, the Commission provides briefings to Select Committees and other government agencies as requested, in addition to the independent advice we provide government on climate change issues through our formal, statutorily require advice and monitoring and review deliverables. The Commission also engages with Members of Parliament across the political divide.

#### The Commission’s upcoming work programme for 2024 and beyond

In accordance with the Act, over the course of 2024 we will deliver seven pieces of advice to the Government. We will:

Provide advice on the unit limits and price control settings for the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) for 2025–2029	Due March 2024
Annually monitor and report on progress towards meeting emissions budgets and the 2050 target, including assessing the adequacy and implementation of the first emissions reduction plan	Due mid-2024
Biennially assess and report on the progress of the first national adaptation plan, including its implementation, effectiveness and how to address barriers	Due August 2024
Review the 2050 emissions reduction target and, subject to certain criteria, may recommend changes	Due December 2024
Review whether emissions from international shipping and aviation should be included in the 2050 target, and if so, how	Due December 2024
Provide advice for the preparation of the fourth emissions budget (2036–2040)	Due December 2024
Provide advice to inform the second Nationally Determined Contribution (currently on hold)	Due December 2024

#### Advice to inform the second Nationally Determined Contribution

The Commission has been asked to provide advice to the Government to help inform Aotearoa New Zealand’s second Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement by 31 December 2024.

This advice was requested under section 5k of the Act which allows the Minister of Climate Change to make specific requests for advice at any time. The Terms of Reference for this advice have been agreed upon with the acknowledgement that the Commission will require additional funding to be able to deliver on this request. Work on this advice is currently on hold.

#### National Climate Risk Assessment

The Commission will publish the next National Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2026, and every six years thereafter.

The risk assessment provides a national picture of how Aotearoa New Zealand may be affected by climate change-related hazards.

Under section 5ZP of the Act, a national climate change risk assessment must:

- assess the risks to Aotearoa New Zealand’s economy, society, environment, and ecology from the current and future effects of climate change; and
- identify the most significant risks to Aotearoa New Zealand, based on the nature of the risks, their severity, and the need for co-ordinated steps to respond to those risks in the next 6-year period.

**Appendix Three** illustrates the multi-decade timeline of our statutory functions and deliverables from our establishment through to the 2040s and **Appendix Four** provides a detailed breakdown of the deliverables due over the next 12 months.

#### Our appropriation

In 2023/24 the Commission’s total appropriation under Vote: Environment is \$18,433,000, which is intended for us to provide independent, evidence-based advice to Government to help Aotearoa New Zealand transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy.

The appropriation is provided to the Commission for establishment and operations of our advisory and monitoring function, in accordance with our statutory purposes and functions.

This was an increase in appropriation for 2023/24 of:

- \$3 million to support a possible function for the Climate Change Commission advising on agricultural emissions pricing (subject to Cabinet decisions)
- \$651,000 to meet the Climate Change Commission's wage cost pressures, and
- \$130,000 to support the Climate Change Commission to advise on a thriving, low emissions and climate resilient future.

#### *Funding for Agricultural emissions pricing advice*

Agriculture is an important sector to Aotearoa New Zealand and the Commission has strong and grounded capability to support our advice to Government on how the sector can contribute to emissions reductions and how the sector can adapt to a changing climate.

In Budget 23, the Commission was appropriated \$3 million per annum to support a possible function for advising specifically on agricultural emissions pricing. The Commission is investigating how to add to its existing capability, irrespective of whether or when the Commission is asked to assume a dedicated advisory role on agricultural emissions pricing.

There is currently no dedicated capability, supporting tools or policy settings across the public sector that would allow the efficient and effective pricing of agricultural emissions under a new mechanism. Some of the supporting pieces do exist, such as underlying data and models that could be used, but they are spread through different agencies and have not been pulled together for this purpose.

Considerable preparatory work would be required to ensure that a new emissions pricing mechanism could be stood up in the future and how it would complement other policies. Due to its role and expertise the Commission is uniquely placed to commence foundational and transferrable preparatory work on the design and development of an emissions pricing mechanism.

Regardless of how a new mechanism is designed and implemented, understanding the longer-term impacts of agricultural emissions pricing and its interaction with other policies will remain critical to the Commission's future advice on emissions budgets, emissions reduction plans and reviews of the 2050 targets as well as monitoring of progress.

#### *Funding for section 5k requests*

It is critical that any extra unfunded pieces of work are appropriately resourced to ensure the Commission can deliver all its statutory advice within the agreed and legislatively specified timeframes. Since our appropriation was set, we have received a further request under section 5k of the Act relating to Aotearoa New Zealand's second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2).

When this advice was requested, the Commission noted that additional funding would be required to deliver this advice in addition to our existing statutory requirements. We are currently identifying options for this additional funding, and have paused this work until we are able to confirm how we will resource this. Any further section 5k requests that might be made will also have additional resourcing impacts.

The NDC2 section 5k request seeks advice on Aotearoa New Zealand's potential contribution to the global 1.5°C ambition under different burden sharing principles, impacts to Aotearoa New Zealand of achieving a limited number of emissions reduction levels domestically, and a comparison between these two analyses so that the Government has a range for NDC2 within which it can make a decision on the relative priority it places on contributing to global efforts and the domestic economic and social impacts of achieving NDC2.

As currently framed it also includes a substantive piece on various accounting treatments. We have high-level cost estimates for this piece of work that can be shared with you at the appropriate time; to inform these estimates we have included consideration of:

- estimates provided by staff who have worked on tasks of similar scale and complexity previously,
- our existing resource allocation spread across the package of advice required to be delivered across 2024 (with that work programme already scoped and resource allocated), and
- the highly limited number of sufficiently experienced practitioners in this field (target accounting, inventory accounting in particular), some of whom are already assigned to lead other 2024 deliverables.

## APPENDIX 1: OUR PEOPLE

The Commission is a growing team dedicated to ensuring we can build a better Aotearoa New Zealand to pass on to future generations. We have a range of expertise, including public policy, communications and engagement, kaupapa Māori, agriculture, climate science, behavioural sciences, economics, energy, forests, health, modelling, transport, urban planning, adaptation and waste. We support a board of eight Commissioners, also from varying fields.

### Our Board of Commissioners

#### **Dr Rod Carr, Chairperson** (appointed in December 2019)

Dr Rod Carr has extensive experience in both public and private sector governance and leadership. He has served in senior governance positions at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Canterbury. He was also the founding Chair of the National Infrastructure Advisory Board, a director of Lyttleton Port Company Ltd and Taranaki Investment Management Ltd.

#### **Lisa Tumahai, Deputy Chairperson** (reappointed in December 2021)

Lisa Tumahai has a wealth of expertise in Te Tiriti o Waitangi workings and te ao Māori. She has served in the Tribal Parliament of Ngāi Tahu for over 20 years and has held the role of Kaiwhakahaere for the last seven. She is a leader for her hapū, Ngāti Waewae, and a commercial director for her Papatipu Rūnanga on Te Tai Poutini West Coast.

#### **Dr Judy Lawrence, Commissioner** (reappointed in December 2022)

Dr Judy Lawrence has extensive experience across climate change science, national and local government mitigation, adaptation policy and practice, and in developing and applying innovative adaptation decision-making approaches. She has served as Coordinating Lead Author with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She works with and draws from international, national, regional and local networks, and has served as an elected member of a regional council.

#### **Catherine Leining, Commissioner** (appointed in December 2019)

Catherine Leining is a leading expert on climate change mitigation policy, specialising in emissions trading. She is a Policy Fellow at Motu Economic and Public Policy Research and has previously held policy positions at several organisations including the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Waka Kotahi and the Wellington City Council.

#### **Professor James Renwick, Commissioner** (appointed in December 2019)

Professor James Renwick has over four decades of experience in weather and climate research. He has been a Lead Author and Coordinating Lead Author on three assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Science Communication in 2018.

#### **Dr Tanira Kingi, Commissioner** (appointed in December 2021)

Dr Tanira Kingi has over 30 years' experience in NZs primary industry sectors in management positions and as an agricultural economist and research scientist. He currently leads research programmes in mitigation and land use change scenario modelling predominantly with Māori land

authorities. Tanira has a PhD in agricultural economics and development (ANU) and affiliates to Ngati Whakaue, Ngati Rangitahi, Te Arawa and Ngati Awa.

**Dr Andy Reisinger, Commissioner** (appointed in December 2021)

Dr Andy Reisinger is an independent climate change consultant specialising in agriculture, multi-gas mitigation strategies, and adaptation and risk management, with extensive experience in climate policy advice. He recently served as a member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and as Vice-Chair of the mitigation working group during the IPCC's 6th assessment cycle, as well as lead author for several IPCC reports.

**Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva, Commissioner** (appointed in December 2022)

Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva has led several international research projects and networks on climate security, social protection and geopolitical security. He is a global interdisciplinary scholar with research expertise across sociology, environmental studies, development studies, anthropology and political science.

## Our Senior Leadership Team

**Jo Hendy, Chief Executive**

Jo Hendy has led the Climate Change Commission since its inception. She has a background in environmental and climate research. As Director of Research and Analysis for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, she led independent investigations into sea-level rise and agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. She also led the Commission's precursor, the Secretariat for the Interim Climate Change Committee, where she oversaw the Committee's inquiry into renewable electricity.

**Grant Blackwell** – Chief Science Advisor

**Astrid Nunns** – General Manager, Strategy, Engagement Corporate Services

**Stephen Walter** - General Manager, Emissions Budgets, Adaptation and Markets

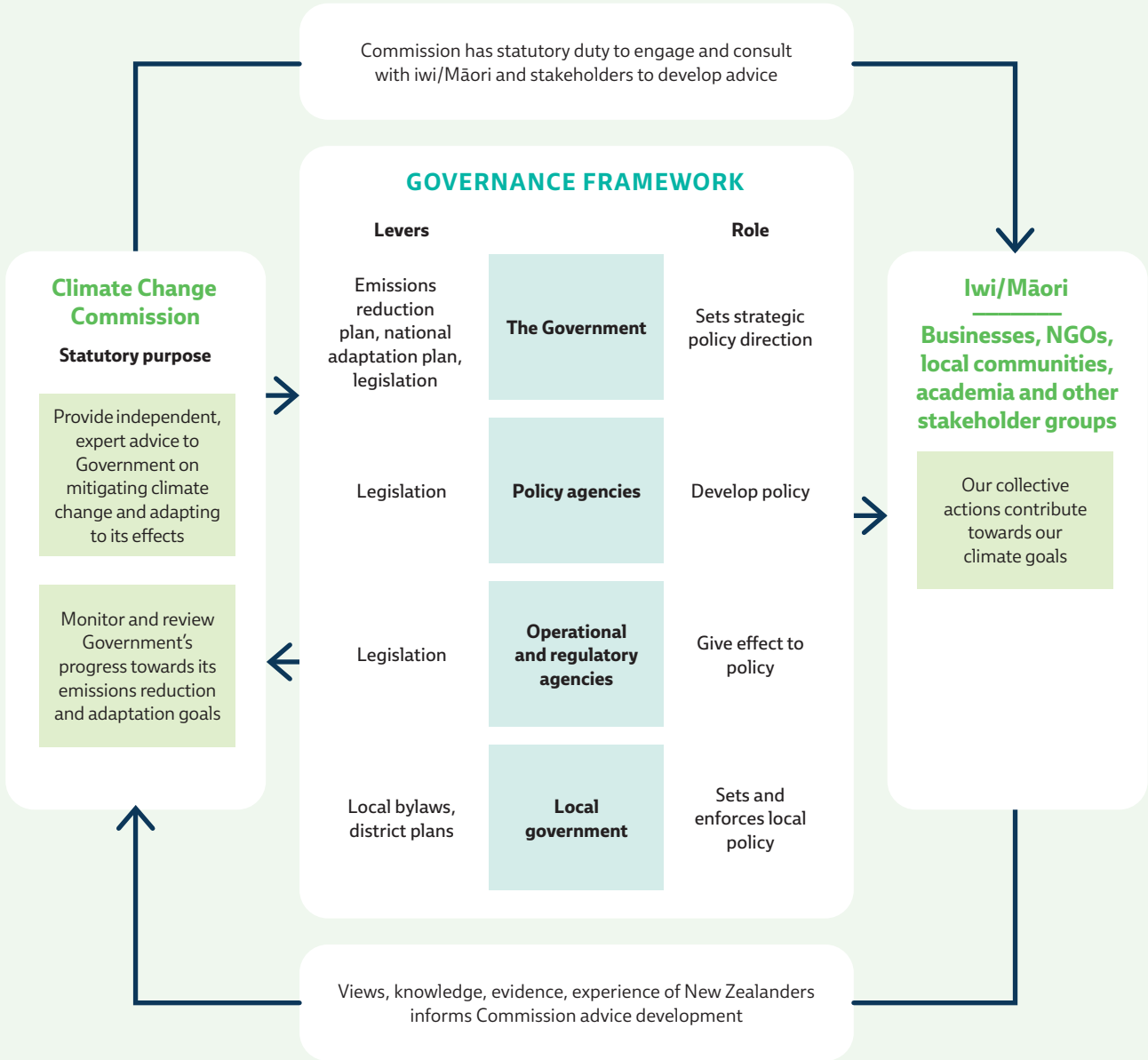
**Barry Anderson** – General Manager, Sector Analysis

**Alison Cole** – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Māori

Further information on our Board and Chief Executive can be found on our website.

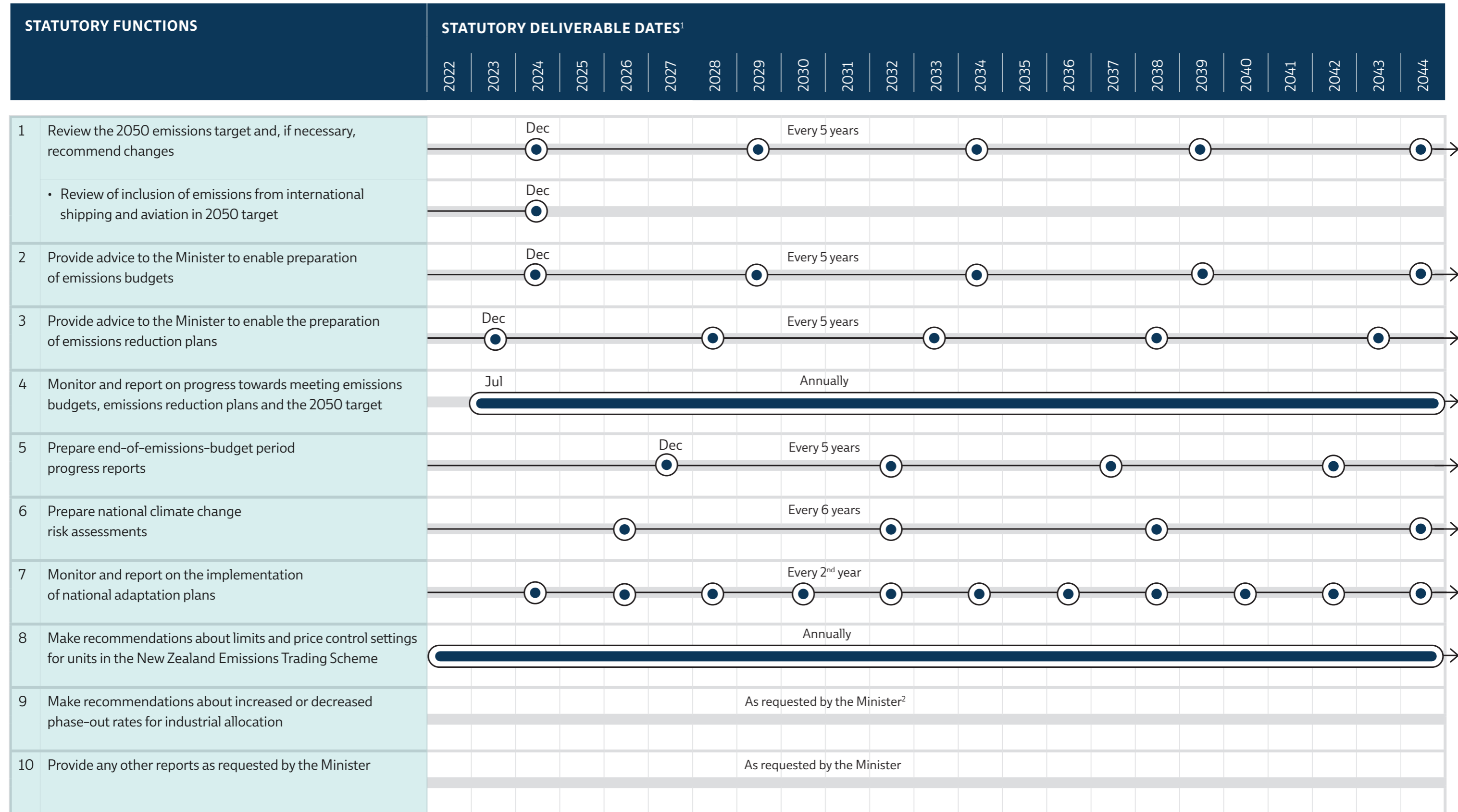
Our role in Aotearoa New Zealand’s climate policy and action system

Upholds - Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi principles of partnership, participation, protection and equity



# Statutory functions and deliverables

Mapped out to 2044



1. These dates reflect the latest time by which the deliverable must be provided. In some cases, there is also the possibility of the Commission providing advice at other times under certain circumstances.  
 2. Increases must be decided before the start of the emissions budget period in which they will apply from 2026 onwards; and decreases before the start of the year in which they will apply from 2031 onwards.



#### APPENDIX 4: Advice from the Commission due to you in the next 12 months

Title	Comments	Due date
<p>Advice on ETS unit limits and price control settings for 2025-2029</p>	<p>Each year, the Commission must provide advice to Minister on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS), including recommending limits on units available each year in the NZ ETS, and price control settings.</p> <p>The purpose of this advice, which is provided to you each year, is to help ensure the NZ ETS operates effectively and in accordance with the emissions budgets, nationally determined contributions, and the 2050 target as set out in the Climate Change Response Act 2002. Our advice feeds into the Government’s annual update of the regulations that set limits and price control settings for the NZ ETS.</p>	<p>By 31 March 2024</p>
<p>Monitor and report on progress towards meeting emissions budgets, emissions reduction plans and the 2050 target</p>	<p>The Commission has an important role in monitoring and reviewing Aotearoa New Zealand's progress towards its emissions reduction goals, including monitoring progress towards meeting emissions budgets, emissions reduction plans and the 2050 target. The insights and lessons learned from monitoring can in turn help inform the Commission’s future advice on opportunities to reduce emissions, limitations in Aotearoa's approach and gaps in progress.</p> <p>With the Commission’s early focus having been on the provision of advice, we are now turning attention to the scope and shape of our monitoring function, in preparation for our first annual progress report due to you mid-2024. This report is timed to follow the release of the New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Inventory report.</p> <p>We will also provide a report at the end of each emissions budget period (approximately every five years). These reports must be prepared no later than two years after the end of the relevant emissions budget period. New Zealand’s first emissions budget covers the period 2022-2025, so the first of these retrospective reports is expected to come out in 2027.</p>	<p>First annual report due mid 2024</p>
<p>Progress reports on the National Adaptation Plans</p>	<p>Every two years, the Commission will provide a progress report on the implementation, progress and effectiveness of the Government’s National Adaptation Plan, including how barriers can be overcome. The first progress report due to you in August 2024.</p>	<p>First biennial report due August 2024</p>

	<p>Over the next 12 months, we will be focused on building enduring relationships with our adaptation stakeholders and gathering the evidence we need as part of this role. We will be developing our approach to monitoring the Government’s progress on adaptation, including what our monitoring framework and criteria will be, and how it aligns with our mitigation monitoring work.</p>	
<p>Advice for preparation of emissions budgets</p>	<p>Every five years, we produce independent expert advice on the system of emissions budgets to step Aotearoa New Zealand towards the 2050 emissions reductions targets. We recommend quantities but don’t set the budgets ourselves.</p> <p>The next emissions budgets advice will be for the period 2036 – 2040, which is due to you by the end of 2024. The exact matters that we must consider are set out in section 5ZC of the Climate Change Response Act.</p> <p>The call for evidence to inform our next emissions budget advice closed on Monday 31 July 2023 and we are currently analysing the evidence submitted. We expect to go out for consultation in March 2024.</p> <p>In our first advice to Government, Ināia tonu nei, we provided advice on the first three emissions budgets (from 2022 to 2035), which have now been set by Government.</p>	<p>December 2024</p>
<p>Review of inclusion of emissions from international shipping and aviation in 2050 target</p>	<p>The Commission will provide you with advice on whether the 2050 target should be amended to include emissions from international shipping and aviation, and if so, how the target should be amended.</p> <p>Currently, the 2050 target includes emissions from domestic shipping and domestic aviation but excludes emissions from shipping and aviation to and from Aotearoa. Globally, international aviation emissions are currently being addressed within the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and international shipping emissions are being addressed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).</p> <p>The call for evidence on this area of work closed on Monday 31 July 2023 and we are currently analysing the evidence submitted. We expect to go out for consultation in March 2024.</p>	<p>By 31 December 2024</p>

<p>Review the 2050 Emissions Targets</p>	<p>The Commission must review emissions budgets every five years starting from next year. At the same time as this, we must review and provide independent expert advice on whether any changes should be made to Aotearoa New Zealand’s legislated 2050 targets.</p> <p>While we must review the targets, we can only recommend a change to the targets if we establish that there has been or will be significant enough change in circumstances to justify it – for example, if there is significant new evidence or a new global context for change. The exact criteria we need to consider is in section 5T of the Climate Change Response Act.</p> <p>The call for evidence on this area of work closed on Monday 31 July 2023 and we are currently analysing the evidence submitted. We have not yet determined the timeframe for any consultation on the targets review.</p>	<p>By 31 December 2024</p>
<p>Advice to inform the second Nationally Determined Contribution (currently on hold)</p>	<p>Every country needs to set successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels.</p> <p>On 9 October 2023, the then Minister of Climate Change (Hon James Shaw) confirmed his request for advice to help inform Aotearoa New Zealand's second NDC. This must be set by 2025 and will be the country’s international commitment to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from 2031–2035. This request was made under section 5K of the Climate Change Response Act.</p>	<p>By 31 December 2024</p>