



OIA Ref: 2021-046

Privacy

fyi-request-16073-bf1faf49@requests.fyi.org.nz

9 August 2021

Official Information Act Request Response

Kia ora Privacy

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 14 July 2021 for the following:

“Under the OIA, please provide me with all advice received by the Commission from MFAT and other sources on the likely effects of New Zealand’s climate change policies on the climate change policies of other countries, especially the top 20 global emitters; and what consideration the Commission gave to this matter before preparing its draft and final advice this year.”

Please find attached the information within scope of this request. This consists of one letter received in March 2021 from the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference Unit in response to the Commission’s public release of its draft advice to Government.

As per sections 5M(g) and 5ZC(2)(b)(x) of the Climate Change Response Act, in preparing its advice the Commission took into account the actions and plans to respond to climate change of parties to the Paris Agreement or to the Convention. More information on these considerations appears in Chapter 2 of the Supporting Evidence for *Ināia Tonu nei* at: <https://bit.ly/3ipioBL>.

While the Commission did consider the Paris Agreement and Convention parties’ actions and plans, it did not not consider the effects of New Zealand’s climate change policies on those countries’ policies. It is the responsibility of the Government of the day to set New Zealand’s climate change policies. Therefore, the Government is best placed to assess the potential impacts of New Zealand’s climate change policies on other countries.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.



Please note that the Commission has a policy to proactively release OIA responses to help others have access to more information. Consequently, this letter will be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi
Privacy



Climate Change Commission



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25 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The United Kingdom's COP26 Unit welcomes this first package of ambitious advice put forward by New Zealand's Climate Change Commission. This initial report presents a comprehensive and rigorous consideration of the actions required to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The act of seeking independent expert guidance that follows the best available science is indicative of New Zealand's progressive track record on climate action and sets a strong example for others to follow. Added to this, inviting stakeholder input through consultation increases the robustness and transparency of the advice. This approach should be applauded. As an international community, we must do all we can to bring along whole societies if we are to meet our climate goals.

In response to this invitation, the UK's COP26 Unit would like to highlight some key areas from the advice which New Zealand could follow to further demonstrate continued international climate leadership as we look ahead to COP26 in November and beyond.

Revising and aligning New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. This action must be replicated by all parties as we seek to close the emissions gap. As the Commission's advice notes, current international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions do not go far enough towards this end. Ahead of COP26, the UK is urging all countries - large and small, developed and developing - to communicate NDCs that reflect highest possible ambition in line with the Paris temperature goal. In setting a Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce all greenhouse gases emissions by as close as possible to 70% below 2005 gross emissions levels by 2030, New Zealand would be sending a strong statement of intent to the international community ahead of COP26 and cement its reputation as a climate leader - both in the Pacific and on the global stage.

Setting ambitious domestic near-term targets towards achieving net zero. The UK and New Zealand similarly seek independent and expert advice to help set periodic legally-binding carbon budgets to limit domestic emissions to meet the long-term goal of bringing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. In legislating for these carbon budgets, our governments chart a clear direction

for businesses, civil society and others to follow. It is therefore imperative that these domestic targets set fair and ambitious trajectories to promote the transition to net zero. We recognise that a review of New Zealand's split-gas approach is beyond the remit of this first package of advice. The UK's COP26 Unit nonetheless encourages New Zealand to take an economy-wide and all-greenhouse gas approach in its net zero target. Given New Zealand's status, the international community will look to the example that it sets. New Zealand's split-gas approach is already being cited by some countries as a reason for excluding certain gases when considering their own long-term targets, which is clearly against our shared goals around delivering the ambition set out in the Paris Agreement.

Sharing expertise towards shared challenges. New Zealand has made considerable achievements in responding to the challenges posed by climate change. The Commission's report rightly underscores the value of New Zealand's international contributions in sharing its experience and expertise in areas such as efficient agricultural production, and its leadership of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. New Zealand has an opportunity to lead the world in reducing agricultural emissions and has already demonstrated its ability to advance agricultural technology and improve efficiency. We aim to make COP26 an opportunity for countries to champion and share knowledge such as this in order to help others tackle this issue. As the UK and its farmers similarly seek solutions to meet the challenges posed by land use change, improving agricultural innovation and reducing agricultural emissions at large, we value our close partnership with New Zealand in this area.

New Zealand also has an opportunity to lead the way in deploying low carbon hydrogen solutions, especially in heavy transportation. Further to this, the Commission's report rightly highlights the key role that electric vehicles will play in reducing transport emissions and the need for widespread adoption of EVs. We would welcome the opportunity to share our own experience in both of these areas following the UK Government having announced in November 2020 the end of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030 and the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution having underscored how the UK is investigating and expanding the use of hydrogen.

Collaboration on climate change is crucial. The challenges posed in reducing all greenhouse gas emissions from sectors such as agriculture, transport, and decarbonising industry and homes transcend national boundaries. Meeting these challenges will require strong leadership from all countries. The UK welcomes New Zealand's initiative and leadership in inviting this consultation, and looks forward to working together on the road to COP26.

Yours sincerely,

The United Kingdom's COP26 Unit