



OIA Ref: 2021-060

Privacy

Greenpeace Aotearoa

Privacy

Tēnā koe Privacy

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 17 November 2021. Details of your request are below:

*Could you provide me with any information held by Government departments regarding the climate impacts of cutting synthetic nitrogen fertiliser generally, or specifically on New Zealand's dairy farms? Info would be welcome either from your own departments and/or by referral to any other agency.*

The following three documents are within scope of your request.

Item	Title/Subject	Notes
Item 1	Eliminating synthetic nitrogen fertiliser on dairy farms	Refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as publicly available <a href="#">here</a> .
Item 2	Organic Ag	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA. Appendix 1 of this response contains a list of links to the articles upon which Item 2 is based.
Item 3	Draft Agriculture mitigations chapter	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

Item 1 - *Eliminating synthetic nitrogen fertiliser on dairy farms* is publicly available at the location listed in the table above.

Item 2 consists of notes taken by Commission staff on a number of articles relating to organic agriculture and/or the use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser on dairy farms. These notes were taken in the early research stages and were subsequently developed into Item 1. I am refusing your request for this information under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.

The Ombudsman has advised that preliminary information like that contained in Item 2 is afforded protection by section 9(2)(g)(i) as it is important for agencies and officials to explore ideas in the course of creating advice. For your reference we have included as Appendix 1 a list of the academic articles referred to in this document and where they are publicly available.

Item 3 is an early draft version of Chapter 7 - Reducing Emissions from Agriculture, from the Commission's 2021 supporting evidence for its advice to Government *Ināia Tonu Nei - a low emissions future for Aotearoa*. The final version of this chapter is publicly available on our website at: [Part 2: Sectoral challenges and opportunities » Climate Change Commission \(climatecommission.govt.nz\)](#). As with Item 2, I am withholding the draft version of this chapter in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).

**Further Information held by the Commission and the Ministry for the Environment**

There are further documents held by the Commission which also fall within scope of this request. These documents are held by both the Commission and the Ministry for the Environment. The Ministry for the Environment is the best placed agency to make a decision on this information, and I understand they have contacted you in relation to this aspect of your request.

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](http://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**

## **Appendix 1: Academic Articles included in Item 2**

Journeaux, P., Wilton, J., Ford, S., & McDonald, G. (2019). [\*The value of nitrogen fertiliser to the New Zealand economy\*](#).

Reisinger, A., Clark, H., Journeaux, P., Clark, D., & Lambert, G. (2017). [\*On-farm options to reduce agricultural GHG emissions in New Zealand \[Report to the Biological Emissions Reference Group\]\*](#). New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC).

Reisinger, A., Clark, H., Abercrombie, R., Aspin, M., Ettema, P., Harris, M., Hoggard, A., Newman, M., Sneath, G. (2018). [\*Future options to reduce biological GHG emissions on-farm: critical assumptions and national-scale impact \[Report to the Biological Emissions Reference Group\]\*](#). New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC).

Glasse, C. B., Roach, C. G., Lee, J. M., & Clark, D. A. (2013). [\*The impact of farming without nitrogen fertiliser for ten years on pasture yield and composition, milksolids production and profitability; a research farmlet comparison\*](#). Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association, 71–78.

Howarth, S., Journeaux, P. (2016). [\*Review of nitrogen mitigation strategies for dairy farms – is the method of analysis and results consistent cross studies?\*](#) Integrated nutrient and water management for sustainable farming (Eds L. D. Currie and R. Singh). <http://flrc.massey.ac.nz/publications.html>. Occasional Report No. 29. Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre, Massey University.

Carroll, J., & Daigneault, A. (2019). [\*Achieving ambitious climate targets: Is it economical for New Zealand to invest in agricultural GHG mitigation?\*](#) Environmental Research Letters, 14.

Shadbolt, N. M., Kelly, T., Holmes, C. W. (2005). [\*Organic dairy farming: cost of production and profitability\*](#). AFBM Journal, 2(2), 136 – 145.

Kelly, T., Shadbolt, N., Horne, D. (2008). [\*Organic-conventional dairy systems trial at Massey\*](#). Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management, 12, 30-33.

Shadbolt, N., Thatcher, A., Horne, D., Kemp, P., Harrington, K., Palmer, A., Martin, N. (2011). [\*Massey University Organic-Conventional Dairy Systems Trial: Report after the seventh season of full certification\*](#).

Organics Aotearoa New Zealand (2018). [\*2018 New Zealand Organic Sector Market Report\*](#).

Monaghan, R. M., de Klein, C. A. M., Muirhead, R. W. (2008). [\*Prioritisation of farm scale remediation efforts for reducing losses of nutrients and faecal indicator organisms to waterways: A case study of New Zealand dairy farming\*](#). Journal of Environmental Management, 87, 609 – 622.

### **Web pages**

<https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/our-co-operative/the-way-we-farm/organic-farming.html>

<https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/investors/farmgate-milk-prices.html>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/79699575/fonterra-announces-920-price-for-organic-farmers>