



OIA Ref: 2021-061

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
4 February 2022

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2021 requesting:

*"5M Matters Commission must consider*

*In performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under this Act, the Commission must consider, where relevant, —*

*(a) current available scientific knowledge;*

*We request a response to the following questions, please:*

- 1. What scientists has the Commission sought specific advice from regarding the dominance of water vapour among Greenhouse Gases and what advice did the Commission receive?*
- 2. Did the Commission consult with, seek advice from or consider the research of Professor Emeritus Dr Geoffrey Duffy DEng, PhD, BSC, ASTC Dip, FRS NZ, FICHEM. Auckland University on the issue of the dominance of water vapour over methane particularly in relation to their absorption capacity on the electro-magnetic spectrum and if so, what was Commission's response to the advice/information?*
- 3. Did the Commission consult with, seek advice from or consider the research of Dr Jock Allison, former Director of the Invermay Research Station and, in particular, his published paper with Dr Tom Sheahan proposing that ruminant methane cannot impact temperature and if not why not?"*

We have processed your request under the Official Information Act 1982. Our responses to your questions are outlined below:

1. The Commission did not seek specific advice on this topic from any climate scientists in our advice to the government 'Ināia Tonu Nei.' The Commission based its advice on the current science of climate change, including the role of water and other greenhouse gases, on the peer-reviewed published scientific literature. In particular, we drew upon the research assessed and summarised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The role of water vapour as a greenhouse gas is well understood and has been clearly documented and accounted for in the scientific literature.
2. The Commission did not consult with, seek advice from or consider the research of Professor Emeritus Dr Geoffrey Duffy during the development of *Ināia Tonu Nei*.

3. The Commission considered Drs Allison and Sheahan's paper "*Greenhouse Gases – a more realistic view*" during the development of *Ināia Tonu Nei*.

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.

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,

Astrid Nunns  
**General Manager, Strategy, Planning and Engagement**  
**Climate Change Commission**