

OIA Ref: 2022-017

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27 October 2022

Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your email of 3 October 2022 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I appreciate your mandate is to transition Aotearoa to a climate-resilient and low-emissions future. Do you include changes to the military and reductions in military emissions in your advice to Government? Do you include their current emissions in your reports? Do you include them in your planning for how to transition to a low emission and climate-resilient economy? Do you include them in your monitoring of the Government's process towards emissions reduction and adaptation goals? If not, why not?

At this stage, I am requesting answers to the above questions and titles of any reports that do the above, please; I am not currently requesting copies of the reports.

The Commission has a number of roles and has given advice across a range of topics. Information on the advice it has given can be found on our website. Military emissions are most relevant in the advice the Commission gives to Government around the setting of emissions budgets and the emissions reduction plan (the direction of policy).

The Commission can confirm that estimated emissions from military activities are not separately identified in New Zealand's National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (prepared by Ministry for the Environment). The Commission's work preparing advice on emissions budgets is largely based on the same inventory data. Emissions from military activities outside New Zealand territory will not be included in the inventory. This would include international aviation and shipping emissions and any emissions associated with military activities in other jurisdictions. This is in line with international standard practice.

However, we understand that some sources of emissions from military activities occurring in New Zealand will be included in the inventory as part of the relevant categories. For instance, emissions from military buildings will be estimated as part of emissions from commercial buildings.

The Commission's work on adaptation is in its early stages, so the Commission has not to date provided advice specific to the military with an adaptation focus as part of our work on a low-emission and climate-resilient economy.

Our past advice to Government on the direction of policy to reduce emissions did not separately address how to mitigate emissions from military activities. However, our sectoral advice related to transport, energy, buildings would be applicable to the military in some circumstances. For more information about this, please refer to Chapters 14 & 15 of our 2021 advice *Ināia tonu nei* at:

www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-aotearoa/

Some of the Commission's advice around government leadership across mitigation and adaptation may also apply to government departments and state services organisations, such as Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.

As far as monitoring the Government's progress towards emissions reduction and adaptation goals, this work is in its early stages within the Commission. We expect to deliver it in 2024, in accordance with the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

I hope this response has been helpful, however, you still have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of this decision, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982. The relevant details can be found on their website at:

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

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

Ngā mihi



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Climate Change Commission