

Ref: OIA 2023-004

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

27 February 2023

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 30 January 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

1. *“What information do you hold on feedback loops with respect to temperature changes and increases and what papers, please provide copies of the papers. What papers do you have to refer to for making or assessing such calculations?”*
2. *How is the price and availability of money being identified in respect to reducing CO2 emissions and what documentations and reports do you have to validate this argument?*
3. *Have you asked the Government to create debt-free money to address climate change mitigations in order to make it economically viable to address climate change (the government created debt free money to address covid. The first Labour Government instructed the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to create debt-free money in order to fund the building of state houses in New Zealand.)*
4. *What role of money have you assessed or lobbied with respect to the New Zealand government for climate change?”*

The Commission’s purpose is to help guide the New Zealand government of the day to make decisions that will help address the problem of climate change. We do this by providing government with independent and evidence-based advice on ways Aotearoa New Zealand can mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Regarding your first point about feedback loops, the Commission draws its understanding of climate science from a wide range of published scientific studies and the work of the global science community, including the work of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC). In particular, Chapter 5 of the Working Group 1 report in the latest IPCC assessment summarises the current understanding of climate feedback loops. You can read this report on the IPCC website, at: www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/chapter/chapter-5/

As part of our first advice to the government, *Ināia Tonu Nei*, we commissioned a report from three leading climate scientists titled: *Climate science considerations for global mitigation pathways and implications for New Zealand mitigation pathways*. This report also made reference to climate feedback loops and is available on our website, at: <https://ccc-production-media.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/public/Climate-science-consideratins-of-global-mitigation-pathways-and-implications-for-Aotearoa.pdf>

As such, the Commission is refusing the first part of your request in accordance with Section 18(d) of the Act, because the information you seek is already publicly available.



In regard to Questions 2 and 4, we have not provided any advice about the role of money in respect to climate change on the specific topics you raise. As such, we are refusing these questions under Section 18(e) of the Act, because the information requested does not exist.

We have, however, given more general advice to government about prices and other economic-policy options (such as the role of financial incentives, funding to remove non-market barriers to the update of mitigation options, and so on) in *Ināia Tonu Nei* as well as our advice on Agricultural Assistance and on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) settings. We also provided advice to the Government on how to put a climate lens on Aotearoa's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic back in 2020. Links to this information are included below:

Ināia Tonu Nei

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

Advice on Agriculture Assistance

www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/agricultural-emissions/agricultural-assistance/

Advice on ETS settings

www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/nz-ets/

The Commission's response to Budget 2020

www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/response-to-budget-2020/

Advice on COVID-19 economic recovery

www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/six-principles-for-economic-recovery/

Finally, in relation to Question 3, the Commission has not asked the Government to create debt-free money to address climate change.

We hope this response has been helpful, however, you have the right to seek an investigation and review of this letter by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. 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 responses to requests made under the Act 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



Stephen Walter
General Manager – Emissions Budgets, Adaptation & Markets
Climate Change Commission