



OIA Ref: 2023-013

[REDACTED]

17 July 2023

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your message of 19 June 2023, asking for “*the base documentation*” the Climate Change Commission uses to “*justify the Climate Change decisions being made*” and “*how the climate change is proven*”. You also asked, “*Is the basis the IPCC report?*”.

Due to the nature of your questions, we are treating this as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

It is important to understand that the Climate Change Commission (the Commission) does not make decisions about climate policy or its implementation. As an independent Crown entity, the Commission’s role is to provide expert, evidence-based advice on climate change mitigation and adaptation to Government.

The Commission also monitors and reviews the Government’s progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals. Our independence means we can provide impartial advice and hold the Government to account for action on climate change.

The Commission’s first advice to Government, ‘[Ināia tonu nei: a lower emissions future for Aotearoa](#)’ was published 31 May 2021. The Commission has also published the [evidence](#) that we relied on in creating this advice. This includes data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as other peer-reviewed sources.

The Commission bases its assessment of the causes and impacts of climate change on the established peer-reviewed scientific literature, and the consensus of the world’s scientific community.

A key part of the establishment of scientific knowledge and any scientific consensus is the continual testing, refining or rejecting of hypotheses and theories based on new data and information. Indeed, this is a key strength of the IPCC process, where conclusions and scientific understanding are continually updated as new evidence is reviewed and incorporated, and the uncertainty around the conclusions is refined accordingly.

On the basis of this process, the consensus of the world’s climate scientists is that the earth is warming and humans are primarily responsible. For a range of statements of that scientific agreement, see <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>. The recent IPCC Assessment Report 6 sets out the most up-to-date assessment of the evidence of climate change and its causes. You may find the Summary report

([AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 — IPCC](#)) and Chapters 1 and 3 of the Working Group 3 report ([Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)) of particular interest.

The Commission is satisfied that the body of evidence of human-driven increases in global energy content is clear and unequivocal.

As the information you have requested is publicly available, we have responded to your request for information by providing you with links to websites containing the information you seek. This decision is made under section 18(d) of the Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi



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