



Ref: OIA 2023-020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

6 September 2023

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 12 August 2023 seeking the following information:

- 1. Why are we attempting decarbonising when CO₂ is only 0.4 percent of the atmosphere, and current levels are still 50% below optimum levels for plant growth and there is no direct link proven between CO₂ and temperature change (per MIT etc).*
- 2. Why are we imposing carbon taxes when no one else has, and we emit only 0.12% of CO₂ world emissions?*
- 3. What knowledge and experience do Maori bring to de-carbonisation*
- 4. Are the information reports you use based on modelling or actual temperature recordings since the last ice age.*
- 5. What weighting have you put on the affect to NZers of the coming ETS charges eg higher fuel prices.*

The Climate Change Commission (the Commission) has considered this request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

While the Commission is not required under the OIA to create information or to form opinions, rather than refuse your request under section 18(g) of the OIA (as the Commission does not hold the information you've requested) I have made the decision to provide you with responses to each of your questions.

- 1. Why are we attempting decarbonising when CO₂ is only 0.4 percent of the atmosphere, and current levels are still 50% below optimum levels for plant growth and there is no direct link proven between CO₂ and temperature change (per MIT etc).***
- 2. Why are we imposing carbon taxes when no one else has, and we emit only 0.12% of CO₂ world emissions?***

Under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA), the Commission's purpose is to provide evidence-based advice to the Government on climate issues. The Government considers our independent advice when making its decisions on how best to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand transitions into a thriving climate-resilient and low-emissions economy.

As an independent Crown entity, we are not accountable for overseeing any legislation or decisions the Government makes in response to our advice, including where it relates to your request.

3. What knowledge and experience do Māori bring to de-carbonisation

The Commission actively seeks out the expertise and insights of others because for our advice on climate action to be practical, equitable, achievable and affordable we have to understand what our recommendations mean for people.

Section 5M(f) of the CCRA states that the Commission must consider the Crown-Māori relationship, te ao Māori, and specific effects on Iwi and Māori defining te ao Māori as including tikanga Māori, te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori, and Māori economic activity.

4. Are the information reports you use based on modelling or actual temperature recordings since the last ice age.

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.

This includes data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which considers ice core data records over the glacial-interglacial cycles of the last 800kyr, as well as other peer-reviewed sources. Specific to Aotearoa New Zealand, NIWA has data sets of temperature recordings from approximately the last 100 years.

5. What weighting have you put on the affect to NZers of the coming ETS charges eg higher fuel prices.

[Section 5M](#) of the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA) outlines matters the Commission must consider when performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under the CCRA.

Included in these considerations are the likely economic effects (s.5M(c) of the CCRA) and the distribution of benefits, costs and risk between generations (s.5M(d) of the CCRA). As is statutorily required, these factors are considered as part of our [advice on NZ ETS settings](#).

Another example of how we consider these factors is [Ināia tonu nei](#), which was our first advice to the Government.

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 OIA. 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 OIA. 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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