



Ref: OIA 2024-022

[REDACTED]

11 June 2024

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your feedback of 17 May 2024, below, some of which (in bold, below) we have treated as requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“...You and Fran Lovell have made it clear that only politicised science is considered acceptable to the commission.*

*That being the case and that net zero will impoverish this country and devastate its agricultural production then I think you have an obligation to answer the question posed by MP Maureen Pugh.*

*That is, **where is the evidence (from observation/experiment) that shows that climate change is driven by CO2.***

*There is no evidence at all in the IPCC WG1 reports but there are hundreds of peer reviewed papers to the contrary (all ignored by the IPCC)*

*Without such evidence there is no justification for any action being taken against fossil fuels.*

*Secondly, If warming of the atmosphere causes climate change then it follows that the atmosphere must warm first and the warm atmosphere would then warm the ocean and land. Could you please **provide papers that show how this could happen**, given that only molecules radiating downward from the first half metre above the ocean could possibly hit the ocean, and that the long wave infrared can only penetrate about 0.1mm of water. Also, for every molecule radiating downward that might hit the ocean surface, there are 85000 radiating up from the sea surface.*

*Thirdly, the IPCC has a problem, it states that doubling CO2 will cause an increase in forcing of 3.7 W/m<sup>2</sup> and that this will cause an increase in temperature of 3°C (median of their range). ([see lecture here by Prof Howard Hayden](#))*

*The problem is that if the temperature of the Earth is raised by 3°C then that will cause an increase in infrared radiation from the Earth of 16.7 W/m<sup>2</sup> (Stephan Boltzman). Therein lies the problem, the atmosphere, from doubling CO2, will absorb another 3.7 W/m<sup>2</sup> but the Earth is radiating 16.7 W/m<sup>2</sup>.*

*The difference of 13 W/m<sup>2</sup> will go to space and cool the earth. The maximum temperature increase that could happen without additional loss of energy to space is 0.65 °C (which is also, co-incidentally, the increase calculated by Wijngaarden and Happer)*

*Could you please explain this apparent discrepancy.”*

### **The Climate Change Commission’s Response**

The Commission’s approach to assessing scientific evidence is set out our [website](#). The Commission accepts the evidence of the causes of climate change, and the overwhelming consensus view of the world’s climate scientists.

In terms of the specific themes in your email that could be considered requests (in bold, above), in applying the Act, I am able to provide the following information, all of which is publicly available.

- The report from the [IPCC Working Group 1 in the Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#) sets out the range of evidence of the role that CO<sub>2</sub> and other climate forcers play in driving climate change. This includes records of increasing concentrations, contributions to radiative forcing and corresponding changes in the climate.
- Evidence of the role of increased greenhouse gases in driving net increases in ocean heat content is presented in the [AR6 WG1](#) report and the [IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate \(2019\)](#).
- [AR6](#) also sets out the current understanding of climate sensitivity to increases in carbon dioxide.

It is important to note that under the Act, there is a distinction between:

- questions which can be answered by providing information already known to and held by us (this is considered “official information”), and
- questions which require us to form an opinion or provide an explanation and so create new information to answer the request (this is not “official information” for the purposes of the Act).

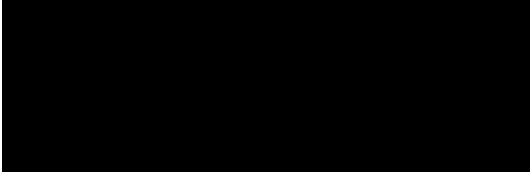
This means that the Commission is not required to form an opinion or provide you with an explanation as that would create new information.

Further, as the information you have requested is publicly available, we rely on [section 18\(d\)](#) of the Act to support our decision to not provide it to you directly.

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](http://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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