

26 March 2021

Climate Change Commission
PO Box 24448
Wellington 6142

Attention: Submissions analysis team

Submission on the Climate Change Commission's "2021 Draft Advice for Consultation"

On 31 January 2021 New Zealand's Climate Change Commission released its draft advice and the Commission's Chair, Dr Rod Carr, notes that it "*is about the direction of policy necessary to put Aotearoa on a pathway to quickly, significantly and permanently reduce greenhouse gas emissions*".

On behalf of our Council, I fully support this sentiment, the report and the proposed measures and actions to deliver on emissions budget proposals it contains.

In line with the need to reduce emissions, Hutt City Council has already taken a number of significant actions and has begun work on their implementation:

- In November 2018 the Council adopted an organisational carbon target of Zero by 2050.
- In June 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency
- In September 2019 the Council commenced work on the development of a city-wide roadmap to achieve zero carbon.

As part of this work area, a project is underway to engage with the Lower Hutt community about how we might, collectively, better understand and respond to the challenges that climate change will pose to Lower Hutt in future.

In order to help mitigate the impacts of climate change our draft Long-Term Plan for 2021 – 2031 contains a significant level of planned new expenditure. By way of example, our proposed climate focused actions would complete the transition out of natural gas at all Council facilities by 2030, and accelerate the roll-out of electric vehicle charging stations across the city. This work builds on previous actions, such as the installation of a flare at Silverstream landfill, to complement an existing power plant and to further improve methane destruction.

These and other initiatives undertaken will see Lower Hutt on the path to transition to a low emissions city by 2050 but there remains much more work to be done.

We therefore endorse the setting of clear emissions budgets and reporting requirements which will ensure Aotearoa remains on course to meet its 2050 net zero emissions target. We urge cross-party support of the emissions budget pathway, even if approaches to meeting those targets may vary.

In addition, strong partnership between central and local government will be critical to meeting our shared goals. We therefore fully support the commission's Enabling Recommendation 4 *"that, in transitioning Aotearoa to a thriving, climate-resilient and low emissions future, central and local government work together ..."*

The most recent greenhouse gas inventory commissioned by our city in 2020 illustrates that the majority of greenhouse gas emissions in Lower Hutt are from transportation (56%) and stationary energy (30%). With this in mind, we urge the government and regional council to prioritise the full decarbonisation of public transport and work to ensure the network is efficient, reliable, user-friendly and well integrated with other transport options in our region.

We encourage ongoing prioritisation of, and funding support for, active transport. Some public feedback on our own recent cycleway and shared pathway infrastructure investments has questioned whether this is of priority in the midst of housing and infrastructure crises. We are committed to developing safe options for active transport, but a strong mandate and funding support from central government would help ease what is proving to be a difficult transition for some to accept in the current environment.

With regards to energy, we urge the government to deliver on its commitment of 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030. Indeed, our own calculations for emissions reductions through actions such as replacing gas heating in council facilities (mentioned above) depend on this commitment being delivered in order to have the desired impact.

As we conduct citywide spatial planning and a review of our district plan we will continue to strive for compact urban form, appropriate land use and energy efficient buildings. Again, strong and timely policy change and signals from central government will help us achieve the change that is necessary.

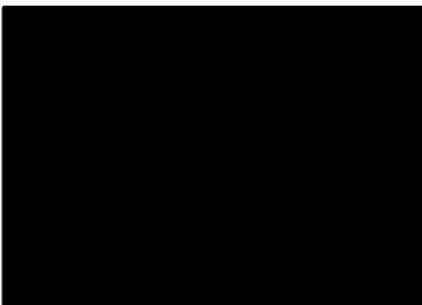
In addition to reducing emissions, we welcome proposals for carbon sequestration through natural systems drawing on mātauranga Māori, including planting new native forests and pest control. We welcome investment in these areas as it can deliver so many co-benefits including amenity, biodiversity, health and social benefits (including through the creation of green jobs).

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt
Koromatua o
Te Awakairangi ki tai

Throughout this process of rapidly decarbonising our country, it is important that all residents (including iwi/Māori) are engaged in an inclusive process which seeks and reflects their views and achieves an equitable, inclusive and well-planned climate transition for all.

Finally, on behalf of Hutt City, I endorse the report's proposals and look forward to the government's response to the Commission's report. I also look forward to our council working in partnership with central government, its agencies, our local government colleagues and our community, over the coming years, to make the proposed emission reduction plans a reality.

Yours faithfully,



Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

