
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 March 2021 8:51 pm
To: Hello - Climate Commission
Subject: [REDACTED] submission to Climate Change Commission Consultation

Kia ora,

I would like to make a submission to the Climate Change Commission's first package of advice to Government. My response to the Six Big Questions is below.

The Pace of Change

I support urgent action to reduce the contribution Aotearoa makes to global climate change. This means rapid reductions in all greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide from things like transport and energy, and methane from agriculture.

I think it's great that the Commission says that transformational work must start now. This term of Parliament is critical for key decisions that will shape the following decades. I also think some things could be faster. For example, a more ambitious target would be achievable for people walking, cycling, and taking public transport to work and school.

I'd also like to see faster action to reduce agricultural emissions, including more farms moving to regenerative and organic farming. The Government can support this by funding farmers to change the ways they farm, and using regulations to reduce things like industrial fertiliser use.

Future Generations

The longer we wait to reduce emissions, the harder it will be. We need to start now. Future generations will thank us if we take urgent action at the scale that's needed.

This means the Government must take urgent action to set up the systems, structures, and policies that make reducing emissions easy and affordable for everyday people.

Coordinated action for Aotearoa to reduce emissions can also help address other long term challenges for future generations. These include building affordable, energy-efficient homes close to schools and jobs, with good public transport and walking and cycling connections, and in green communities with parks and trees.

Our Contribution

Aotearoa as a country has significant economic wealth (although it's often not shared fairly). As a developed country, we have a responsibility to act quickly and help lead the global effort. We can do this in a way that raises living standards for our disadvantaged communities.

We are lucky to have lots of potential for more low emissions renewable electricity like wind and solar, and this can be used to power industry and transport.

We need to do this not just for ourselves, but also for our Pacific neighbours who are at the frontlines of the changing climate.

I support the Commission's approach of focusing on reducing emissions within Aotearoa, not relying on buying lots of carbon credits from overseas. Reducing our emissions here will help create local jobs in green industries.

The Role and Type of Forests

Pine grows fast to suck carbon out of the atmosphere, but in the long term it has environmental problems. We need to encourage more native forestry, which supports native birds and healthier ecosystems.

I would also like to see more focus on enhancing nature in our towns and cities. Urban trees and parks help reduce emissions, cool urban temperatures, and improve peoples' quality of life.

Policy Priorities to Reduce Emissions

Focusing on energy and transport makes sense because clean energy and clean transport options are available. But agriculture accounts for almost half of the emissions in Aotearoa so it needs urgent action too.

I strongly support; urgently ending the use of coal for industry, phasing out the use of gas in industry, government action to reduce the cost of electric cars, and phasing out imports of new petrol and diesel cars, building more wind, solar, and geothermal electricity generators and electrifying rail for freight and passengers.

For transport priorities, I think the Commission could be more ambitious about encouraging people to walk, cycle, and take public transport more often. If Government makes this safe, reliable, and affordable, people will do it!

Technology and Behaviour Change

What's important is that Government and businesses make their systems easy for people to choose low emissions options. I support the Government taking specific, immediate actions to improve clean transport and energy options, not relying on the Emissions Trading Scheme to encourage businesses to change their technologies over time.

It's good to see the Commission say that there are lots of clean energy technologies we could use right now. I agree. But there are also some of very new technologies being used overseas that will be available in Aotearoa soon, like zero-emissions steel production to replace coal-based steel production. The Commission should look at these new technologies too.

Waste is an area where behaviour change can complement technology. For example, we need better recycling technologies in Aotearoa but the manufacturers of products also need to create less waste in the first place.

I think it's really important that we have a just transition in Aotearoa. This means making sure we support new training and job opportunities in low emissions industries, and working alongside communities who are affected by change.

Thank you for considering my submission,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]