

25 March 2021

To the Climate Commissioner, Dr Rod Carr

It's encouraging to see that the He Pou a Rangi – the Climate Change Commission's *2021 Draft Advice for Consultation* highlights the substantial contribution animal agriculture makes to Aotearoa's greenhouse gas emissions profile.

The report highlights the fact that:

- Livestock farming accounts for 90% of Aotearoa's agriculture emissions
- Animal agriculture emits most of Aotearoa's methane emissions and makes a significant contribution to long-lived gas emissions
- Almost 40% of land in Aotearoa is taken up by pastoral agriculture.

The climate emergency is the greatest threat to human health this century. We need a plan that's ambitious and bold – one that has clear and strong recommendations for how to cut climate pollution from our most polluting industry.

Despite animal agriculture's alarming emissions profile, the draft advice doesn't place enough focus on our biggest contributor to the climate emergency. Animal agriculture is responsible for the majority of Aotearoa's greenhouse gas emissions; therefore, that is where the majority of change needs to occur if we are to meet our goals to cut emissions and make a real contribution towards combating the climate emergency.

To combat the climate emergency we need to ensure Aotearoa's economy is less reliant on an industry that is having such a detrimental effect on our environment. Making minimal tweaks to management within animal agriculture and relying on future technology that may never eventuate or work is not enough.

The diversification of land use needs to be highlighted as a top priority. The Commission's draft advice notes that 1.5 million hectares of land currently used for livestock farming could be suitable for horticulture or arable cropping. It also states that horticulture is more profitable per hectare than dairy or livestock farming. This is an example of what should be at the top of the priority list in the Climate Commission's advice, as well as information on how the animal agriculture sector can best be supported to overcome any barriers to making a transition.

We want to see a plan that:

- Supports a transition away from the less profitable and more climate-emitting animal agriculture sector into horticulture.
- Supports and incentivises diversification of land use into plant-based food production
- Disincentivises any new conversions into the climate-damaging dairy industry
- Brings animal agriculture into the Emission Trading Scheme
- Focuses on reducing Aotearoa's economic reliance on animal agriculture

Sincerely,



Debra Ashton
Chief Executive Officer

From: noreply@safe.org.nz on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [Hello - Climate Commission](#)
Subject: agriculture
Date: Thursday, 18 March 2021 5:01:56 pm

Dear Climate Commissioner, Dr Rod Carr,

It's encouraging to see that the He Pou a Rangi – the Climate Change Commission's 2021 Draft Advice for Consultation highlights the substantial contribution animal agriculture makes to Aotearoa's greenhouse gas emissions profile.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Noho ora mai.