

20-D-00123

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

Scientific proof of global warming caused by CO₂, and Methane.

I wish to understand the indisputable evidence of global warming and how the ETS is going to manage this. Please do not send me climate model information, as none of them have accurately forecast anything that resembles hard evidence of global warming."

Your original request to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) as the information you requested falls under the Ministry's operational responsibilities.

The available evidence on carbon dioxide, methane and climate change, and how the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) will manage carbon dioxide and methane's contribution to climate change is publically available. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

The evidence for carbon dioxide, methane and climate change is best summarised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), whose Fifth Assessment Report was completed in November 2014 and is available at the following link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>. The statements regarding carbon dioxide and methane as drivers of climate change can be found on page 44 of the following document: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full.pdf. The IPCC reports represent the global expert assessment of knowledge on climate change, which the New Zealand Government accepts.

The NZ ETS is the Government's main tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sectors under the scheme are required to report on their emissions and surrender units to the Government to cover their emissions. The Government supplies units for emissions removals through forestry and industrial activities. The emissions price is then determined by the market, based on supply and demand of units, and this price creates a financial incentive for businesses that emit greenhouse gases to invest in technologies and practices that reduce emissions. The scheme also encourages forest planting by allowing eligible foresters to earn New Zealand emission units as their trees grow and absorb carbon dioxide.

The NZ ETS was reviewed in two stages between 2015 and 2017, which resulted in the phase-out of transitional measure which allowed non-forestry businesses to pay one emissions unit for every two tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. A full one-for-one obligation takes effect from

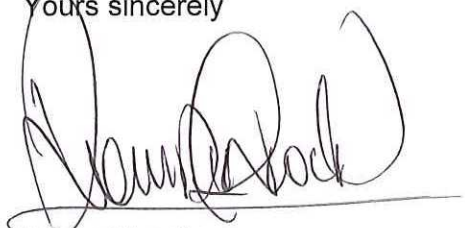
2019. A number of other reforms were announced and included in the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Bill in late 2019. Among these reforms are the phase-out of free allocation to major industrial emissions, enabling an overall cap on emissions and introducing new forestry accounting settings. These changes are intended to make the NZ ETS an effective tool for driving emissions reductions, encouraging afforestation and achieving our climate change targets

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Lincoln', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Lincoln
Director, Climate Change

Released under the provisions of
the Official Information Act 1982