



To: Hon Tim Groser, Minister for Climate Change Issues

Draft Cabinet paper: International Climate Change New Zealand's commitments and negotiations

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Action Sought:	Approval/Agreement Advice/Direction	Response Needed by:	Friday 16 May

Ministry for the Environment Contacts

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Executive Summary

1. This briefing note asks for feedback on the draft Cabinet paper International Climate Change: Negotiations and New Zealand's Responsibilities (attached in Appendix One).
2. We think it would be useful for you to go to Cabinet in November to request a refresh of our international negotiating mandate; advise Cabinet of decisions to be made in 2015 on New Zealand's 'intended nationally determined contribution'; and seek an invitation to initiate the domestic treaty process required for accepting the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol in step with other developed countries. We have structured the draft Cabinet paper in three parts.
3. The **first part** requests a consolidated negotiating mandate because previous mandates are dispersed, out of date in some places and contain repetition and inconsistencies. While officials would appreciate an updated mandate now, there is no substantive new content that immediately needs addressing.
4. The **second part** draws Cabinet's attention to "contributions" that Parties have been invited to table for the 2015 climate change agreement. We view it as important for New Zealand's credibility that we respond to this invitation in the first half of 2015. Cabinet will need to consider New Zealand's contribution, including agreeing an approach to consultation, in February 2015 and it would be useful to advise them ahead of time.
5. The **third part** requests Cabinet invite you to initiate the domestic treaty making process for accepting the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol at an appropriate time. New Zealand is expected to accept this amendment that created the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (CP2) as a Party to the Protocol in good faith, despite choosing not to take a target under CP2.
6. We propose you take the paper to the Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI) on 5 November and to Cabinet on 24 November 2014. Should you choose not to go to Cabinet at this time officials will be able to negotiate under the current mandate

and you could discuss New Zealand's contribution with a smaller group of Ministers. A decision on accepting the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol could be taken in 2015.

7. The draft Cabinet paper was written jointly by the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. During preparations we consulted with the Treasury, the Ministry of Primary Industries, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. In the consultation process no issues arose that need to be specifically discussed with other Ministers.

Advice

8. We seek your views on whether or not you would like to take a paper to Cabinet this November, and your comments on the draft Cabinet paper attached to this briefing note. If you agree to take a paper to Cabinet, officials propose you take the paper to EGI on 5 November and to Cabinet on 24 November. For Cabinet to consider the paper on this date the paper will need to be lodged by Thursday 30 October. To meet these timeframes we would appreciate your comments by Wednesday 29 October.
9. Officials are available to meet with you at any stage to discuss the issues raised in this briefing note and the contents of the draft Cabinet paper.

We recommend that you:

- a) **Consider** the attached draft Cabinet paper
- b) **Indicate** whether you wish to take the paper to EGI on 5 November **Yes / No**
- c) **Provide feedback** on the attached draft Cabinet paper by Wednesday 29 October

Kay Harrison
Director, Climate Change

Date

Hon Tim Groser
Minister for Climate Change Issues

Date