

12 June 2019

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s 9(2)(a)

Stuff

s 9(2)(a) @stuff.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All correspondence, briefings, reports, memos and advice sent or received this year on the Extinction Rebellion movement.

All correspondence, briefings, reports, memos and advice sent or received this year on School Strike 4 Climate.

The Ministry for the Environment has identified one document in scope of your request, which is being released to you in full:

Talking points for Minister Shaw, School Strike for Climate, Friday 15 March 2019


Members of the public, including students taking part in Strike 4 Climate, will be able to make submissions on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill during public consultation in June-July 2019.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of this response, 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 website 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.

Yours sincerely



Janine Smith
Director, Climate Change

Talking points for Minister Shaw

School Strike for Climate

Friday 15 March 2019

Opening

- Kia ora koutou
- It is great to be here with you today and see the commitment and passion of so many of you to the issue of climate change.
- I applaud the action you've taken to strike, the commitment and passion of so many of you to the issue of climate change, and am awed by the number of you here today.
- Your commitment to the future and to New Zealand taking climate action and limiting warming to 1.5 degrees is inspiring and one that the Government and many others share.
- I understand the reason you've taken what some may see as a drastic step to strike from school, but it is important that the younger New Zealanders' view are also heard.
- It is because you want to get people's attention.
- I want to assure you that you have my attention.

Subject

- Thank you for having me here today to talk to you about the Government's work programme on climate change.
- As the Prime Minister has said this is the nuclear-free issue of our generation.
- I was on Q&A on TV One the other night and there were some clear calls for the Government to take decisive action. I can not yet reveal all the details of the proposed legislation, but I can provide an insight into some of the decisions and the timing for announcements this year.

Point 1

- Since the consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill concluded in August last year officials have been working to ensure that all New Zealanders views are considered in the Bill.
- My Cabinet colleagues and I have been working through the complex series of decisions to ensure that we have a robust and enduring plan to ensure that we can meet our commitments over the next 30 years.

Point 2

- There are a range of major climate announcements coming in the next few months.
- On 30 April, the Interim Climate Change Committee will deliver their reports on:
 - How New Zealand could transition to 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2035 in a normal hydrological year, and
 - Advice on how agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions would be practically addressed in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, if a decision was made to include them.
- The Government will then consult on these reports and make decisions accordingly.
- In early May, we will be introducing the Zero Carbon Bill to the House.
- Later in May, the government will provide their response to the Productivity Commission Report on Transitioning to a Low Emissions Economy. This report identified options for how New Zealand can reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions through a transition to a low-emissions economy while at the same time continuing to grow income and wellbeing.
- We also hope to make some budget announcements that will support this work.

Point 3

- Your representatives have asked for certainty on how we plan to reach our climate change goals, and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that, as part of the Zero Carbon Bill, Cabinet has agreed to establish a Climate Change Commission.
- The Commission will provide independent, expert advice to the Government on mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to the effects already locked in.
- The Commission will also monitor and review the Government's progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals.

Point 4

- I can also tell you that Cabinet has agreed to require the Minister for Climate Change to set a series of emissions budgets for the years 2022 to 2050.
- These budgets will help us to reach a 2050 target.
- They will provide greater predictability to all New Zealanders by giving advance information on the emissions reductions that are needed and the changes that we will need to make to get there.
- This will mean that you, your families, businesses and investors, will all have certainty on what changes will happen and when.

- This will make the transition to a low emissions economy easier for us all.
- The Climate Change Commission will advise the Minister on how these budgets are formed, including the making recommendations on the quantity of allowed emissions over the budget period, and also how these budgets will be met – either through pricing or policy.

Point 5

- We hope to announce the rest of the details of the Bill including the 2050 target in the next few weeks.
- The next step, after the Bill has been introduced to the House, will be a Select Committee process on the legislation.
- This will provide all of you to have a say on how the legislation is drafted
- I urge you to take that opportunity.
- It is important that you and your friends and families take the time to read and understand the proposed law when it is released and have your say as this law will have impacts long into the future.

Conclusion

- Young people have always been at the forefront of climate change action.
- The Zero Carbon Bill itself was popularised by Generation Zero – and they've been campaigning strongly since the Government picked it up to make sure it gets through the House.
- You are part of a global movement of young people striking for their futures in cities across the world.
- It has been the voice of young people that have got us to where we are today – weeks away from introducing the Zero Carbon Bill to the House.
- I'll be 77 in 2050.
- You will be in your thirties and forties – with careers and children.
- You will be thinking about their future, about what 2100 will look like for them.
- The action we take now will ensure that by 2050 a lot of the hard work will have been done.
- Thank you again for your commitment to this mahi.