



6 November 2024

OIAD-1377

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2024 making the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *MFE's guidance on Climate Implications of Policy Assessments indicates CIPA applies for policy proposals where GHG emissions reductions are an explicit objective of a proposal, or where a particular proposal will have significant GHG emission impacts. How does MFE apply this to decisions to stop a policy - is a decision to discontinue treated as a policy proposal sufficient to trigger the CIPA assessment?*
2. *If yes, then how many assessments were carried out in respect of policies which were discontinued by the current government that formed part of the first emissions reduction plan?*
3. *What happens to these projections from CIPA assessments? We understand these go to Cabinet, but are any further steps taken? For example, for those policies which go ahead, are the CIPA assessments used inform the Climate Change Commission's reporting on projected emissions? Are they used for any other reporting? Are they compiled in any way so that impacts can be seen together? Do they make their way into planning for emissions reductions plans?*
4. *We see the requirements for publication of CIPA disclosures in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Cabinet Paper. Is there a list, inventory or database available, or would we need to look on each agency's website?*

*Additionally, could you please:*

5. *Provide the CIPA assessments described in (2).*
6. *Explain how changes to planning legislation (for instance the introduction of the Fast-Track regime that may facilitate emissions-intensives projects that would not have been approved under the RMA or EEZ Act) or minerals legislation (for instance the removal of the ban on further exploration for offshore oil and gas) are incorporated into the official emissions projections to be included in the UNFCCC in New Zealand's biennial report?*

I have provided a response to each of your questions below.

**1. MFE's guidance on Climate Implications of Policy Assessments indicates CIPA applies for policy proposals where GHG emissions reductions are an explicit objective of a proposal, or where a particular proposal will have significant GHG emission impacts. How does MFE apply this to decisions to stop a policy - is a decision to discontinue treated as a policy proposal sufficient to trigger the CIPA assessment?**

Yes, the decision to discontinue a policy can trigger the CIPA assessment process when the Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) requirements are met.

**2. How many assessments were carried out in respect of policies which were discontinued by the current government that formed part of the first emissions reduction plan?**

A CIPA assessment was carried out for the amendment to the first emissions reduction plan, which assessed the overall emissions impact of the discontinuation of 41 actions from the first emissions reduction plan (ERP1). Abatement impacts were disclosed for individual policies where possible, even if the CIPA emissions threshold was not met.

Individually, two policies underwent full CIPA assessments. As part of these assessments, agencies quantified the emissions impacts of repealing these policies. These two policies were:

- Discontinuing the Clean Car Discount – Ministry of Transport
- Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS agricultural obligations – Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry).

**3. What happens to these projections from CIPA assessments? We understand these go to Cabinet, but are any further steps taken? For example, for those policies which go ahead, are the CIPA assessments used inform the Climate Change Commission's reporting on projected emissions? Are they used for any other reporting? Are they compiled in any way so that impacts can be seen together? Do they make their way into planning for emissions reductions plans?**

The Ministry compiles emissions estimates from CIPA-assessed policies as part of developing annual emission projections, released on our website. These estimates can also be used to support Climate Change Interdepartmental Executive Board quarterly reporting on progress towards emissions budgets and targets. They also inform any interim projections produced between official projection cycles. They were accounted for in the modelling that underpins the analysis for the second emissions reduction plan (ERP2), where appropriate and relevant. The Climate Change Commission is an independent body that outlines the methodology they use in their assessments and analyses in their reports.

**4. We see the requirements for publication of CIPA disclosures in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Cabinet Paper. Is there a list, inventory or database available, or would we need to look on each agency's website?**

The Government does not maintain a centralised list, inventory, or database of CIPA assessments. The agency responsible for the policy in question is responsible for decisions around publishing its CIPA documentation.

**5. Provide the CIPA assessments described in (2).**

I am refusing the CIPA Assessment for the amendment to the first emissions reduction plan under section 18(d) of the Act as it will soon be publicly available. This document will be released on the Ministry's website later this month.

I am refusing the CIPA assessment for Discontinuing the Clean Car Discount under section 18(d) of the Act as it is already publicly available at: <https://rules.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/CIPA-CCD-settings-change-Dec-2023-REDACTED.pdf>.

I am releasing the CIPA Assessment for the Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS agricultural obligations policy to you in full. You may also wish to read the CIPA statement for this assessment, which is publicly available as part of the Cabinet paper *Final policy decisions on amending the Climate Change Response Act 2002 to repeal agricultural obligations in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme* here: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/OIA/Files/CAB-378-Final-Policy-Decisions-to-Repeal-Agricultural-Obligations-in-the-New-Zealand-Emissions-Trading-Scheme.pdf>. This CIPA was conducted in January and the impact was assessed compared with a ERP1 counterfactual scenario. Since then, the Government has developed a draft policy package, ERP2, which reflects this policy change, to keep emissions within the limit of the second emissions budget. ERP2 will be finalised and released before the end of the year. You can read more about ERP2 here: <https://environment.govt.nz/news/erp2/>.

**6. Explain how changes to planning legislation (for instance the introduction of the Fast-Track regime that may facilitate emissions-intensives projects that would not have been approved under the RMA or EEZ Act) or minerals legislation (for instance the removal of the ban on further exploration for offshore oil and gas) are incorporated into the official emissions projections to be included in the UNFCCC in New Zealand's biennial report?**

The emissions impacts of the Fast-track Approvals Bill and repealing the Offshore Ban in the Crown Minerals Act 1991 are not explicitly included in the modelling for the 'with existing measures' projections that has been developed for New Zealand's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). However, these projections reflect the latest data on expected domestic natural gas supply at the time when these projections were finalised. More detail will be available when the BTR is published in December 2024.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Ministerial Services team: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hemi Smiler', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Hemi Smiler**

General Manager – Climate Change Mitigation  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

### Document schedule

Title	Decision	Grounds	Link
CIPA Assessment for the amendment to the first emissions reduction plan	Refused in full	18(d)	
CIPA Assessment for the Discontinuing the Clean Car Discount policy	Refused in full	18(d)	<a href="https://rules.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/CIPA-CCD-settings-change-Dec-2023-REDACTED.pdf">https://rules.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/CIPA-CCD-settings-change-Dec-2023-REDACTED.pdf</a>
CIPA Assessment for the Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS agricultural obligations policy	Released in full		