

Weekly update - Minister for Climate Change

Finalised on 3 September for the week commencing 7 September

Date: 7 September
Time: 1:45-2:45pm
Location: Bowen House

Attendees: Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change
Jeremy Corban, Acting Secretary for the Environment
Anne Haira, Deputy Secretary, Climate Change/Partnerships and Customers
Lindy Fursman, Chief Advisor, Climate Change
Matthew Cowie, Acting Director, Climate Change
Katherine Wilson, Director, Climate Change
Justin Strang, Director, Climate Change

	Agenda	Lead	Time
1	Context	Anne Haira	20 min
2	<u>ETS auctioning regulations draft Cabinet paper</u> <i>What we need from you:</i> Your feedback on the draft Cabinet paper and agreement to begin Ministerial consultation	Matthew Cowie	15 min
3	<u>Follow up on climate appropriation</u> <i>What we need from you:</i> feedback from your meeting with Minister Parker last week and your views on next steps	Anne Haira	15 min

Upcoming meetings 31 August – 11 September

Monday, 7 September	MfE Officials Meeting
	MFAT Officials meeting
Wednesday, 9 September	Co-chairs of the Sustainable Finance Forum

1. Updates for noting

1.1. The National Adaptation Plan and Strategy

We recently discussed with you our proposals to develop a national adaptation strategy as a first step in developing the National Adaptation Plan. The purpose of the strategy would be to articulate the government's vision and outcomes for a climate resilient Aotearoa New Zealand. This could set a solid foundation for the development of action plans. Together, the national adaptation strategy and the action plans would form part of the national adaptation plan. A published national adaptation strategy is also an opportunity to provide a coherent story and rationale for the government's approach to build New Zealand's climate resilience, including potential legislative reform.

We are progressing this work over September and October working closely with central government agencies, iwi/Māori, and Local Government New Zealand.

1.2. COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 updates

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has accepted applications for two projects listed in the Act, which will proceed for consideration by an expert consenting panel (Panel). These projects are:

- a water storage facility in Kaikohe, Northland, and
- a Papakāinga housing development in Rāpaki, Christchurch.

The Panel will invite comment from the Minister for Climate Change on these projects (among other parties as set out under the Act).

You were previously consulted by Minister Parker on an application for referral of Transpower's Clutha Upper Waitaki Lines Project. We advised you that the project will have both emissions reduction and climate change resilience benefits. Following consideration of feedback, Minister Parker has decided to proceed with referring the project to a panel for determination. The Ministry has considered climate change matters in the draft Cabinet paper that seeks agreement to the Order in Council to enable this referral to occur.

The Cabinet paper is due to be considered on 7 September. Following referral, the Minister for Climate Change will be consulted by the panel on the merits of the project.

1.3. Industrial allocation data collection update

The data collection project calling for data from four emissions-intensive, trade-exposed (EITE) activities is underway. The Gazette Notices were published on Tuesday last week and call for emissions, production, and revenue data from producers of cucumbers, burnt lime, cement, and cartonboard. Firms that undertake these activities have until 4 November to submit.

Up until 3 September, there has only been one media report from Carbon Pulse, and one enquiry from Vegetable NZ about whether a sample of data can be submitted. We expect over the coming weeks there will be more correspondence between firms and officials.

1.4. Upcoming meeting with the co-chairs of the Sustainable Finance Forum

You are meeting with the co-chairs of the Sustainable Finance Forum, Matt Whineray (NZ Super) and Karen Silk (Westpac) on Wednesday 9 September.

The Forum will publish their Roadmap on 3 November. The co-chairs are looking to discuss the contents of the Roadmap at a high level, and in particular:

- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

They also discussed this with Minister Parker on Wednesday 2 September, with MfE officials in attendance. We will provide you with a briefing, including the outcomes of that meeting in advance of your meeting once confirmed.

1.5. Update on the He Waka Eke Noa Steering Group

The He Waka Eke Noa Steering Group last met on 19 August via Zoom. Key items of discussion included:

- **Te Aukaha – the Māori Agribusiness workstream:** This workstream is integral to embedding Mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori throughout the programme. A contract is being confirmed with the Federation of Māori Authorities as the key partner to deliver Te Aukaha.
- **Upcoming farmer engagement:** Early engagement and testing with farmers is a key part of the programme. The Steering Group agreed an approach to use existing industry reference groups to test standardised and agreed material with farmers. Industry organisations will retain the flexibility to structure these engagements in a way that works for the members.
- **IT infrastructure:** The Steering Group agreed He Waka Eke Noa has a role in developing the high-level requirements (system scope, usability, basic architecture) of any IT infrastructure that will underpin an emissions reporting and accounting system. The Steering Group noted that important considerations will be: ease of use, efficient use of farm data and avoiding duplication with existing IT tools used by the sector or regulators.

A new website for He Waka Eke Noa (hewakaekenoa.nz) was launched on 4 September to provide a central source of information on the work programme, including the history of the partnership, progress to date and timelines for upcoming work. The website will also provide opportunities for farmers, growers and the public to engage and share their views.

2. Context

Domestic

2.1. New Zealand and international emissions prices

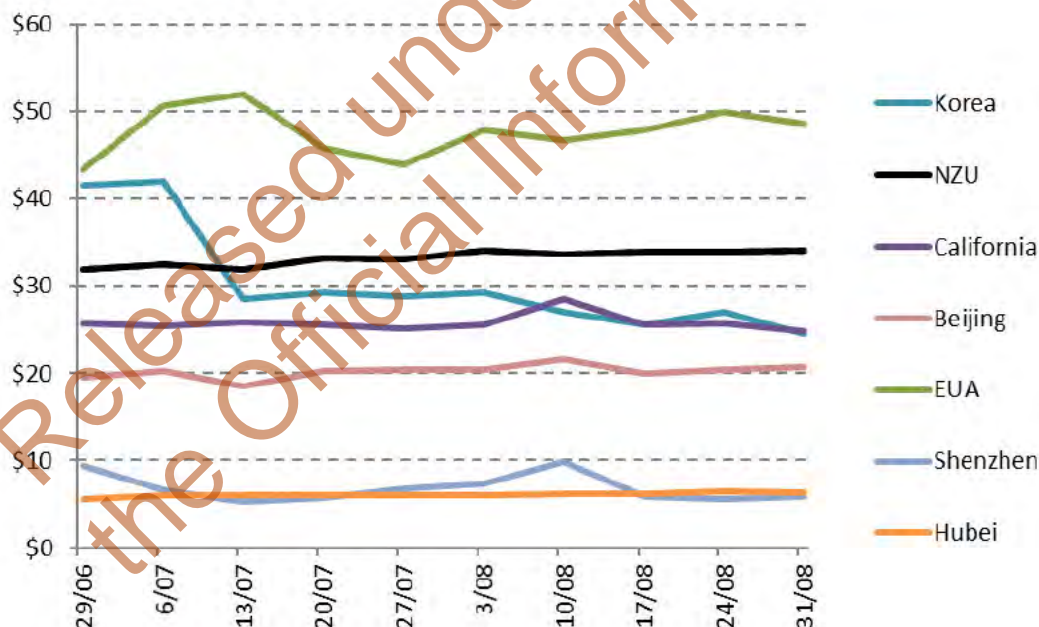
NZU prices and trading volumes remained relatively steady this week. Market commentators suspect traders are waiting to hear official confirmation from the Ministry regarding the launch of the first auction in March 2021 and auction rule regulations before selling units.

EUA prices saw a small decrease as full-sized auctions returned after having half their normal volume at the end of August. This price movement reflects the increased volume of units becoming available to emitting entities in the EU ETS in the near future.

Table: Current emissions prices

NZU, EUA and California emissions prices (NZD/t CO ₂ e) as at 2 September 2020		
NZU	EUA	California
34.08	48.67	24.81

Chart: Recent trends in international emissions prices



2.2. Chapman Tripp launches climate risk toolkit for directors

Chapman Tripp has published a toolkit for directors on managing climate litigation risk. The toolkit was commissioned by the Aotearoa Circle, and builds on Chapman Tripp's legal opinion on climate change and directors' duties released in October 2020. MfE welcomes this toolkit as it is supportive of our work on climate risk.

The report sets out what Chapman Tripp expect the duty of 'reasonable care' in relation to climate change will look like from the perspective of the Court now and in the future. Corporate decisions are likely to be assessed by the Court – even if not intentionally – with hindsight, in the context of the pressures from climate change on society at that time.

The toolkit highlights the use of climate-related financial disclosures as an effective way to mitigate climate litigation risk and demonstrate 'reasonable care'. The report suggests directors should not rely entirely on disclosure alone however; a disclosure mechanism is no substitute for a holistic risk management regime and/or actions that flow as a result of climate change scenario analysis.

We will work with your office to incorporate the release of this toolkit into the communications materials for your upcoming mandatory climate-related financial disclosures announcement.

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International

2.3. UK launches mandatory TCFD consultation for pension schemes

On August 27 the UK launched a consultation on plans to require pension schemes with £5 billion or more in assets to publish climate risk disclosures by the end of 2022, based on the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework. Around 250 more schemes with £1 billion in assets would then have to meet the same requirements in 2023.

Any 'complete failure' to disclose would be subject to a mandatory penalty imposed by The Pensions Regulator. There is also an intent for schemes to report on the extent to which their portfolios are aligned with the Paris Agreement. The consultation ends 7 October.

While New Zealand's mandatory disclosure proposals apply to a wider scope of reporting entities and our announcement will come earlier than the UK's regime, these proposals are due to come into effect sooner than New Zealand's regime. This will help demonstrate that New Zealand's proposals are moving in step with international developments.

2.4. Swedish fossil-free pilot steel-making plant has begun operating

The pilot plant testing Swedish steel-maker SSAB's new fossil-free HYBRIT technology began operating on Monday 31 August, with further information provided in a media update following the opening event. SSAB's CEO and president Martin Lindqvist highlighted the company's 'aim to be the first to market, in as early as 2026, with fossil-free steel'. The pilot plant is intended to test several stages of the HYBRIT technology, using hydrogen to chemically treat iron ore instead of the conventional coking coal process. The plant will test hydrogen production by electrolysis using fossil-free electricity between 2020 and 2024, comparing the iron ore oxygen-reduction process using first natural gas and then hydrogen.

3. Upcoming key events/announcements involving MfE/MFAT

3.1. Climate-related financial disclosures (date TBC)

We are working with your office on the announcement of the climate-related financial disclosures regime.

4. Upcoming briefings

Papers for week ending 11 September

Paper number	Issue or event	Lead	Further information
2020-B-07124	Proactive release of Cabinet paper 'Climate-related financial disclosures'	MfE	The briefing seeks your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper, Climate-related financial disclosures, and the related Cabinet minutes and Regulatory Impact Assessment.
2020-B-07156	Meeting with the co-chairs of the Sustainable Finance Forum – meeting brief	MfE	This briefing provides you with background information and talking points to support your meeting with the co-chairs of the Sustainable Finance Forum on 9 September.

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5. Cabinet material being prepared for you

Paper number	Paper name	Committee	Description	Timeframes
2020-C-06947	Request to bring forward funding for Climate Change Commission	CBC – Cabinet Business Committee	Seeks approval to bring forward funding from out-years for the Climate Change Commission to carry out recently requested work (methane and NDC) and meet its additional responsibilities under the ETR amendment bill. These require additional resourcing as they were not part of the original work programme.	CBC: 7-Sep-20
2020-C-06809	Setting regulations for auctioning in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	CBC – Cabinet Business Committee	Seeks approval to set the rules for auctioning in the NZ ETS as regulations under the Climate Change Response Act.	CBC: 21-Sep-20

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Climate Implications of Policy Assessments (CIPA)

The CIPA requirement came into force on 1 November 2019. The following table sets out current CIPAs that we are working with agencies on, where the CIPA requirements apply or there is a likely emissions impact.

Paper name or short title of proposal	Agency	Status of proposal	Our advice on the GHG analysis
Climate Change (Forestry Sector) Regulations	MPI	Early CIPA engagement – to be taken to Cabinet in 2021	The CIPA requirements are likely to apply to this proposal as it relates to forestry carbon capture and storage. Emissions impact analysis will be carried out closer to when this set of proposals is taken to Cabinet (Q1 2021).

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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6. OIA requests

6.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Due at your office/current status	Date due to send
<p>This is a request under the OIA for all documents, emails and correspondence relating to the national climate change risk assessment within the time period of 1 May 2020 and 5 August 2020. This includes documents relating to decisions of which risks should be included and why, and in particular which risks were decided not to be included in the report. I am particularly interested in documents and correspondence relating to agriculture and correspondence/documents relating to considering agricultural-related climate risks and/or benefits.</p> <p>I would also like to request copies of the Climate Change Weekly Updates (to the Minister of Climate Change) for the same time period, along with any correspondence relating to them</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-O-01506 James Shaw	MfE	10 Sept	17 Sept

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6.2. Ministry for the Environment OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
<p>Would you please forward me a copy of the following publication:</p> <p>Beets, P.N; Kimberley, M.O; Gouldin. C.J; Garrett, I.G.; Oliver, G.R.; Paul T.S.H. 2009: Natural forest plot data analysis; carbon stock analyses and re-measurement strategy. Available on request from the Ministry for the Environment.</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01605 Departmental	MfE	Tue 15 Sep
<p>1. How can a scenario that is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No mitigation measures being taken by any country •No technical developments applied to reducing emissions •Coal use to increase 650% •Unrealistic population increases be considered seriously for a document that is of such importance to New Zealand and our future? <p>2. What research was carried out by the panel or the Ministry on the current status of RCP8.5?</p> <p>3. What was the panel seeking to achieve by using such an implausible and discredited scenario?</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01648 Departmental	MfE	Wed 16 Sep

6.3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Official advice provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to the Minister of Trade and Export Growth between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (i.e. the date your request was received) regarding trade and climate discussions in the European Union–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) negotiations.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	21-Sep-20

IN CONFIDENCE

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2005 and 2018. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed between the aforementioned timeframe. -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and -Other documents of relevance <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personal emails -Public lectures and speeches <p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2018 and 2020. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed in the aforementioned timeframe. - Any reports from attending the Wilton Park Forum on the impact of climate change in the Pacific, UK, December 2018. -Communication strategies to address public (mis)understandings of climate-induced migrants. -Government reports related to climate migration from the Pacific Islands Forum 2019 -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and - Other documents of relevance between 2018-2020. <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cabinet Paper progress update: A New Zealand response to Pacific climate migration -Pacific climate change-related displacement and migration: A New Zealand action plan -Public lectures and speeches <p>Please further note that an additional request will follow this email requesting information from a broader timeframe. [@Topic]</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>	<p>Auckland University</p>	<p>Part 1 of 2 sent 4/08</p> <p>Part 2 in preparation</p>

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Weekly update - Minister for Climate Change

Finalised on 10 September for the week commencing 14 September

Date: 15 September
Time: 1.00pm-2.00pm
Location: Bowen House

Attendees: Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change
Jeremy Corban, Acting Secretary for the Environment
Anne Haira, Deputy Secretary, Climate Change/Partnerships and Customers
Lindy Fursman, Chief Advisor, Climate Change
Matthew Cowie, Acting Director, Climate Change
Katherine Wilson, Director, Climate Change
Justin Strang, Director, Climate Change

	Agenda	Lead	Time
1	Context	Anne Haira	10 min
2	Sustainable financing	Anne Haira	10 min

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Upcoming meetings 14 – 25 September

Monday, 14 September	MfE Officials Meeting Sustainable Land Use Ministers
Tuesday, 15 September	SPEAK: Climate Finance at Responsible Investment NZ Conference
Monday, 21 September	MfE Officials Meeting Sustainable Land Use Ministers

1. Context

Domestic

1.1. Expert review of *New Zealand's Fourth Biennial Report (BR4)*

An international Expert Review Team (ERT) will assess New Zealand's BR4 during the week of Monday 26 – 30 October 2020. This is the preliminary schedule that we have received from the UNFCCC secretariat:

New Zealand has to submit one last (Fifth) Biennial Report and (Eighth) National Communication no later than 31 December 2022. After that, New Zealand will commence reporting under the Paris Agreement, for which we will produce the "Biennial Transparency Report" (BTR). We have started planning for the transition to report under the Paris Agreement, with the objective to identify critical timeframes, decisions and changes needed up to 2024 (when reporting under the Paris Agreement will become mandatory).

There is a moderate risk that the UNFCCC may be unable to finalise its decisions on the Paris Agreement reporting requirements (e.g., format of the BTR) in time due to the delays created by COVID 19. This may mean that we will need to make decisions domestically on how to fulfil our international reporting obligations. We will seek legal advice on this.

1.2. New Zealand and international emissions prices

It has been another stable week for the NZU price, dipping only 3 cents lower than last week. NZU prices have remained between \$30 and \$35 for the last three months, with the high bound reflecting a reluctance to pay over the FPO. The market expectation is that NZU prices will likely remain in this range until May 2021.

The EUA price saw another decrease this week after a large supply of units was available in the auction at the beginning of the week.

Table: Current emissions prices

NZU, EUA and California emissions prices (NZD/t CO ₂ e) as at 9 September 2020		
NZU	EUA	California
34.05	47.84	25.76

Chart: Recent trends in international emissions prices



1.3. Aotearoa Circle released a report (Native Forests: Resetting the balance)

The Aotearoa Circle released its Native Forests: Resetting the balance report in late August. It discusses the core role of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in encouraging exotic forestry, driven by the potential revenue from earning ETS units for fast-growing species like pine. The report concludes that the ETS contributes to a systemic imbalance favouring exotics species, with important implications for regenerating and preserving indigenous biodiversity.

To address this imbalance, the Aotearoa Circle recommends changes to the ETS and its incentive structures to better support native planting. Recommendations include revising land eligibility criteria, particularly around the pre-1990 limit; more accurately reflecting carbon storage of different native species, forest ages, bioregions, and over appropriately longer time horizons; and exploring options to oblige ETS participants to invest in a minimum proportion of emission units from native forests.

Implementing any of these recommendations will affect the flow of forestry removal units into the ETS market. At a high level, these changes would likely result in relatively fewer emission units issued for forestry and for these units to be sold at relatively higher prices. These effects are likely to raise the ETS carbon price over time. The report suggests that shifting the ETS dynamics in this way could then help drive greater gross emission reductions, while also helping deliver important benefits through supporting native biodiversity.

International

1.4. APEC: New Zealand's low-carbon hydrogen standard initiative endorsed by APEC economies

New Zealand's proposal in APEC to explore the feasibility of an international low-carbon hydrogen production standard has been approved in-principle. This reflects New Zealand's efforts to socialise green hydrogen in APEC in response to the request made by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth. It will be one of the key deliverables of New Zealand's APEC 2021 host year that supports APEC's sustainability agenda and build agreement around what a future green hydrogen standard could look like. The establishment of a standard is expected to inform the decisions of consumers and investors by distinguishing hydrogen energy produced using renewable sources from that using fossil fuels. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will deliver the project, which will include an APEC-wide survey and workshop in the second-half of 2021.

1.5. German Government begins issue of 'Green Bonds'

The German Federal Government will begin to issue 'Green Bonds' from September, following the release of a detailed concept paper ("Framework") last week. Going forward, German 'Green Bonds' will be issued regularly, for all standard maturities and as 'twins' to previously issued conventional bonds. An amount of up to €11 billion is expected to be issued before the end of this year. The first Green Bond, to be issued in September, will have a volume of €4 billion, a maturity of 10 years and an interest rate ('coupon') of 0%, mirroring its conventional 'twin' that was issued in June. The proceeds will be used to fund eligible, actual expenditure in the year prior to the issuing, dedicated to the transition of transport and industry, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, relevant R&D and international projects. With this approach, whilst not a first mover in Europe, the German Government hopes to become a benchmark issuer and create added value to the sustainable finance market in Europe.

1.6. Conference on protecting maritime zones from sea-level rise

MFAT officials are participating in an upcoming virtual regional conference from 9-11 September on protecting maritime zones from sea-level rise. The conference brings together representatives from Pacific Island Forum capitals, United Nations Missions in New York and the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. It will discuss legal options for delivering on the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' 2019 call to ensure maritime zones are protected in the event of sea-level rise. Participants will hear from speakers from the region as well as international legal experts. There will be a half a day for closed Forum member discussion. MFAT representatives on the organising group are trying to ensure the conference promotes meaningful discussion and explores the risks of options on the table. We have been engaging bilaterally with Australia on the legal options, and plan to engage bilaterally with counterparts in UK, Singapore, Norway and Netherlands (as potentially likeminded states) in the next couple of months.

1.7. EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan replaced by Valdis Dombrovskis

EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan resigned in late August after attending an 80-person golf dinner in Galway, Ireland - 24 hours after the Irish Cabinet agreed a limit of 6 people per event in response to rising COVID-19 infection rates. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has since nominated Valdis Dombrovskis, former Prime Minister of Latvia and current Commission Executive Vice President, to become the EU's next Trade Commissioner. In July you exchanged letters with Dombrovskis about New Zealand's agreement to join the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF). Dombrovskis will now have to go through the usual European Parliamentary vetting process. ^{s 6(a)}

Dombrovskis belongs to the same centre-right political family as von der Leyen (and former Commissioner Hogan) – generally supportive of free, rules-based trade. Minister Robertson met with Dombrovskis in Brussels in early 2019; he was deeply engaged in discussions and expressed support for the EU-New Zealand FTA. Officials will move to set up an introductory call with Dombrovski once he is confirmed, likely around mid-October.

2. Upcoming key events/announcements involving MfE/MFAT

2.1. Climate-related financial disclosures (date TBC)

We are working with your office on the announcement of the climate-related financial disclosures regime, tentatively planned for Tuesday 15 September.

3. Upcoming briefings

Papers for week ending 18 September

Paper number	Issue or event	Lead	Further information
2020-B-07170	Talking points - Climate Change (Auctions, Limits, and Price Controls for Units) Regulations 2020	MfE	This briefing provides you with talking points on the auctioning regulations cabinet paper. These points will be relevant for the Cabinet Business Committee meeting on the 21 st September where approval of auctioning regulations be will be sought. The Cabinet paper '2020-C-06809 Climate Change (Auctions, Limits, and Price Controls for Units) Regulations 2020' was sent to the office on 9 October 2020.

4. Cabinet material being prepared for you

Paper number	Paper name	Committee	Description	Timeframes
2020-C-06809	Setting regulations for auctioning in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	CBC Cabinet Business Committee	Seeks approval to set the rules for auctioning in the NZ ETS as regulations under the Climate Change Response Act.	C BC: 21-Sep-20

Climate Implications of Policy Assessments (CIPA)

The CIPA requirement came into force on 1 November 2019. The following table sets out current CIPAs that we are working with agencies on, where the CIPA requirements apply or there is a likely emissions impact.

Paper name	Agency	Status of policy	Our advice on the GHG analysis
Climate Change (Forestry Sector) Regulations	MPI	To be taken to Cabinet in 2021	The CIPA requirements are likely to apply to this proposal as it relates to forestry carbon capture and storage. Emissions impact analysis will be

Paper name	Agency	Status of policy	Our advice on the GHG analysis
			carried out closer to when this set of proposals is taken to Cabinet (Q1 2021).

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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5. OIA requests

5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Due at your office/current status	Date due to send
<p>This is a request under the OIA for all documents, emails and correspondence relating to the national climate change risk assessment within the time period of 1 May 2020 and 5 August 2020. This includes documents relating to decisions of which risks should be included and why, and in particular which risks were decided not to be included in the report. I am particularly interested in documents and correspondence relating to agriculture and correspondence/documents relating to considering agricultural-related climate risks and/or benefits.</p> <p>I would also like to request copies of the Climate Change Weekly Updates (to the Minister of Climate Change) for the same time period, along with any correspondence relating to them</p>	s 9(2) (a)		20-O-01506 James Shaw	MfE	16 Sept	17 Sept

5.2. Ministry for the Environment OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
<p>Would you please forward me a copy of the following publication:</p> <p>Beets, P.N; Kimberley, M,O; Gouldin. C.J; Garrett, I.G.; Oliver, G.R.; Paul T.S.H. 2009: Natural forest plot data analysis; carbon stock analyses and re-measurement strategy. Available on request from the Ministry for the Environment.</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01605 Departmental	MfE	Tue 15 Sep
<p>I'm happy to accept the clarification in scope for the second part of the request; 'Copies of the final Climate Change Weekly Updates for the same time period, including any correspondence relating to decisions made for the final versions.'</p> <p>For the first part of the request, I'm happy to refine my request to Documents and correspondence (excluding emails deemed to be of a clearly administrative nature) relating to decisions made for final versions of the national climate change risk assessment, within the time period of 1 May 2020 to 5 August 2020.</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01715 Departmental	MfE	Thurs 1 Oct
<p>1. How can a scenario that is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No mitigation measures being taken by any country •No technical developments applied to reducing emissions •Coal use to increase 650% •Unrealistic population increases be considered seriously for a document that is of such importance to New Zealand and our future? <p>2. What research was carried out by the panel or the Ministry on the current status of RCP8.5?</p> <p>3. What was the panel seeking to achieve by using such an implausible and discredited scenario?</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01648 Departmental	MfE	Wed 28 October

IN CONFIDENCE

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
<p>Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA) / Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)]:</p> <p>(a) data sets and research on the growth rates and sequestration rates of native trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry for the Environment and SCION data sets and research on native tree growth rates and sequestration modelling Other current data relative to this enquiry <p>(b) data sets and research on carbon sequestration of soil carbon, wetlands and ocean based sequesters (i.e algae/seaweed)</p> <p>(c) NZ emissions data sets and research, for example on:</p> <p>Per capita carbon emissions</p> <p>New Zealand based food emissions</p> <p>Transport emissions</p> <p>Energy consumption patterns, with specific interest in coal fired power generation</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>		<p>20-D-01740</p>	<p>MfE</p>	<p>Tue 6 October</p>

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5.3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Official advice provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to the Minister of Trade and Export Growth between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (i.e. the date your request was received) regarding trade and climate discussions in the European Union–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) negotiations.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	21-Sep-20
<p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2005 and 2018. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed between the aforementioned timeframe. -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and -Other documents of relevance <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personal emails -Public lectures and speeches <p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2018 and 2020. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed in the aforementioned timeframe. - Any reports from attending the Wilton Park Forum on the impact of climate change in the Pacific, UK, December 2018. -Communication strategies to address public (mis)understandings of climate-induced migrants. -Government reports related to climate migration from the Pacific Islands Forum 2019 -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and - Other documents of relevance between 2018-2020. <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland University	<p>Part 1 of 2 sent 4/08</p> <p>Part 2 in preparation</p>

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>-Cabinet Paper progress update: A New Zealand response to Pacific climate migration -Pacific climate change-related displacement and migration: A New Zealand action plan -Public lectures and speeches</p> <p>Please further note that an additional request will follow this email requesting information from a broader timeframe.</p>			
<p>Official advice provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to the Minister of Trade and Export Growth between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (i.e. the date your request was received) regarding trade and climate discussions in the European Union–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) negotiations.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	21-Sep-20
<p>Information from MFAT under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the following specific matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information and/or advice, if any, has MFAT provided to the government in recent years (including any Minister in the government and the staff of any ministerial office) on the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 1998. 2. What assessment, if any, has MFAT undertaken in recent years on whether NZ should become a party to the Aarhus Convention, and what was the conclusion of that assessment. 3. If an assessment has been undertaken in recent years, what conclusions did M F A T reach about the additional requirements (if any) that NZ would need to meet in order to fulfil its obligations as a party to the Convention (i.e. if NZ were to seek to become a party). 4. Did MFAT consult with any other government department or agency in undertaking any assessment of the kind noted in point (2)? 5. If MFAT declines to answer any or all of the previous questions, may I please ask MFAT to specify the reasons for withholding the relevant information, having regard to the provisions of Section 19(a)(ii) of the OIA. 	s 9(2)(a)	Victoria University of Wellington	5-Oct-20

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Weekly update - Minister for Climate Change

Finalised on 17 September for the week commencing 21 September

Date: 21 September
Time: 1:45-2:45pm
Location: Bowen House

Attendees: Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change
Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment
Anne Haira, Deputy Secretary, Climate Change/Partnerships and Customers
Lindy Fursman, Chief Advisor, Climate Change
Matthew Cowie, Acting Director, Climate Change
Katherine Wilson, Director, Climate Change
Justin Strang, Director, Climate Change
Fraser Wyeth, Manager, Climate Change

	Agenda	Lead	Time
1	Context	Anne Haira	10 min
2	Update on ETS auction platform development <i>What we need from you:</i> any feedback that you have about the project so far, or its planned future direction	Matthew Cowie	10 min

Upcoming meetings 21 September – 2 October

Monday, 21 September	MfE Officials Meeting
Monday, 21 September	Sustainable Land Use Ministers
Friday, 25 September	School Strike 4 Climate Wellington Debate
Monday, 28 September	MfE Officials Meeting
Monday, 28 September	Sustainable Land Use Ministers

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Update on regional climate change risk assessment work

In July 2020, Cabinet directed officials to engage with local government and other relevant parties on how to establish a system of sub-national risks assessments and plans. We have started to engage with local government on this to build a national picture of the work that is already being undertaken by local government. Seven regions have work underway to assess climate change related risks. Canterbury, Horizons and Northland use the national risk assessment framework - *Arotakenga Huringa Āhuarangi: A Framework for the National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand* - as a basis for their assessments, adapting it according to their local conditions and needs. Over the next few months we will be working closely with LGNZ and a number of regional councils and territorial authorities to create a consistent approach to local level climate risk assessments.

Several regional and district councils are developing, or already implementing, adaptation strategies and/or action plans. We are considering what legislative or institutional settings might be needed to support effective local adaptation planning.

2. Context

Domestic

2.1. New Zealand and international emissions prices

The NZU price reached its all-time high on the 15th of September on both major New Zealand ETS carbon trading platforms. Carbon Match closed at a spot price of \$35.10, and CommTrade at \$35.00.

The volume of NZUs traded at these prices is not known, however NZU supply over recent months has been scarce. This price now signifies that some traders are willing to pay higher for NZUs than the \$35.00 fixed price option (FPO). The FPO will be available for all 2020 emissions, which are not required to be surrendered until May 2021, more than eight months away.

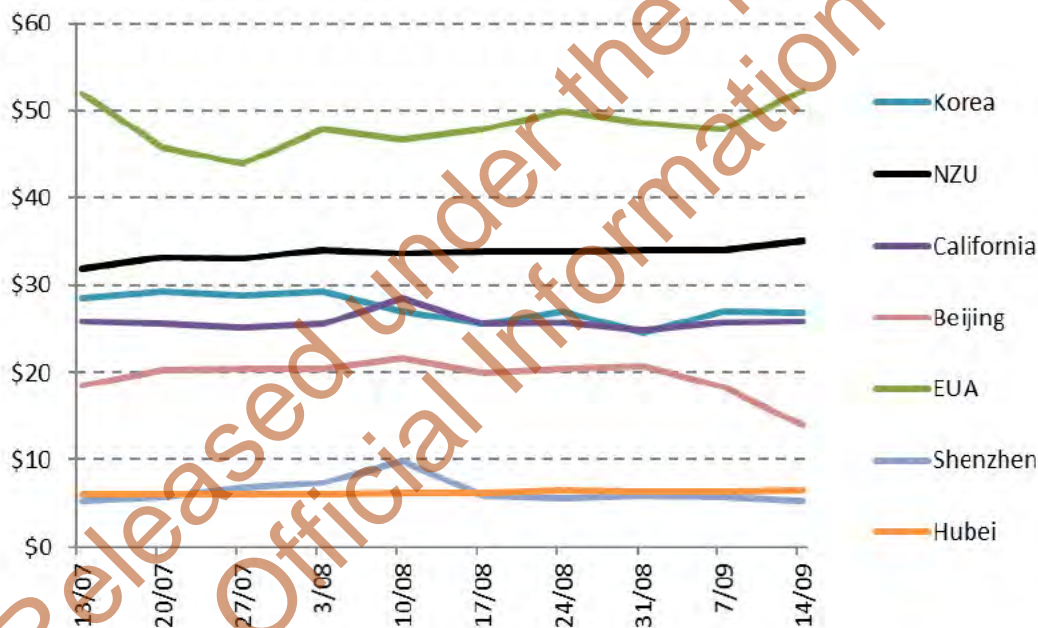
The rise in NZU price on Tuesday coincided with the announcement regarding mandatory climate-related financial disclosures. This could possibly represent a market reaction to this policy to address climate risks.

The EUA price also saw a significant rise this week, hitting a two-month high. Market observers assume this is related to the European Commission's announcement to raise the ambition of the EU's climate targets, from emissions reductions of 40% below 1990 levels to at least 55%. This will be a significant driver of an unexpectedly high reduction in carbon unit auction supply.

Table: Current emissions prices

NZU, EUA and California emissions prices (NZD/t CO ₂ e) as at 16 September 2020		
NZU	EUA	California
35.10	52.26	25.82

Chart: Recent trends in international emissions prices



2.2. Our atmosphere and climate 2020 report release

The environmental domain report *Our atmosphere and climate 2020* is due for public release on 15 October. The date of release is determined under the Environmental Reporting Act.

The day before the report is released (14 October), we will provide you with an outline and a copy of the embargoed report. A Ministry official will contact your office to arrange a time for you and other relevant Ministers to be briefed on the report that day.

Selected stakeholders and media will also be provided with copies of the embargoed report at the same time as you receive it. In the briefing we will also provide you with information detailing the process for release of the report.

This week Stats NZ intend to publish online the list of environmental reporting indicators that will be used in the *Our atmosphere and climate 2020*. The list will be available under the Methods section of the Stats NZ website: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/>. We will also inform our stakeholders about the list.

2.3. Summary of Oxfam Report - confidential

Oxfam New Zealand has released a report regarding what a fair 2030 target for New Zealand would look like for it to align with a global temperature limit of 1.5°C. The draft executive summary was shared confidentially with officials ahead of the release, and officials have had the opportunity to provide some feedback to Oxfam.

The Oxfam report concludes that New Zealand's current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) falls well short of its equitable contribution to the global temperature goal of 1.5°C. Taking into account a range of equity models, Oxfam considers New Zealand's fair share of the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would be at least an 80 per cent reduction from 1990 levels by 2030 – without consideration of historical responsibility. This compares to our current NDC which is to reduce emissions by 30 per cent between 2021-2030 compared to 2005 levels, or by 11 per cent compared to 1990 levels. Considering New Zealand's historical responsibility, Oxfam argues that New Zealand's fair share would increase to reductions of at least 99 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030. The summary acknowledges a target like this is unlikely given cost, timeframes, and efficiency. The report does not discuss how New Zealand might meet such a target, or provide advice on whether these emissions reductions should happen domestically or internationally.

Based on this assessment and the inability for New Zealand to meet such ambitious targets by 2030, the report proposes actions for the Climate Change Commission and the Minister for Climate Change including:

- to publicly acknowledge what New Zealand's fair share target would be.
- enhance the NDC considering our fair share, national circumstances and just transition. It does not give a specific target that it should be enhanced to.
- scale up climate finance contributions to developing countries, and commit to this in the NDC.
- communicate which portion of our NDC will be met domestically and how much will be met using international units.

International

2.4. Climate Measurement Standards Initiative first guidelines released

The Climate Measurement Standards Initiative (CMSI) is an Australian based collaboration between climate scientists, insurers, regulators, and the finance sector. On 14 September 2020, CMSI released their first set of open-source voluntary guidelines on how to assess the risk of climate-related damage to physical buildings and infrastructure from extreme weather events.

The financial disclosure guidelines seek to develop a common interpretation of the Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations and consequently improve the comparability of disclosures. The scientific scenario specifications assess the expected change in physical risks over a 10, 30 and 70 year period. Both guidelines were designed to specifically account for Australian physical buildings and infrastructure and climate-related risks. Transition risks aren't covered in this guidance, but CMSI expects to cover them in its future scope.

MfE has been an observer to this process and is considering how this guidance might inform the development of scenario analysis guidance under our climate-related financial disclosure regime. MfE discussed the potential for ongoing collaboration on 10 September with Climate-KIC Australia, which prepared the reports and represents CMSI's Secretariat.

Separately, Climate Action 100+, an initiative supported by 518 institutional investor organisations across the globe and managing more than US\$47tn, have written to 161 companies that account for up to 80% of global industrial greenhouse gas emissions requesting net zero emissions targets. The organisations will be analysed against this target next year.

2.5. Australia announces plans for a “gas-fired recovery” from COVID-19

Prime Minister Morrison has made a range of energy-themed COVID-19 announcements based on having a “gas-fired recovery”. This is part of a JobMaker plan for affordable, reliable and more secure energy. The Government aims to maintain downward pressure on electricity prices and emissions; reinforce Australia's sovereign fuel security; and reset the East Coast gas market by making gas more available and reliable. The latter commitments includes the Government stepping in to build a new gas power plant in the Hunter Valley if the private sector does not replace the Liddell coal-fired power station in NSW.

3. Upcoming key events/announcements involving MfE/MFAT

Thursday, 15 October

Release of Our Atmosphere and Climate 2020 report

4. Upcoming briefings

Papers for week ending 2 October

Paper number	Issue or event	Lead	Further information
20-B-07050	Joint briefing from Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ on the upcoming OAC2020 report	MfE	On 15th October, the next state of the environment report, Our atmosphere and climate 2020, will be released. The day before, relevant Ministers will receive a briefing on the report. This briefing note provides information where possible on the report.

5. Cabinet material being prepared for you

Paper number	Paper name	Committee	Description	Timeframes
2020-C-06809	Setting regulations for auctioning in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	CBC Cabinet Business Committee	Seeks approval to set the rules for auctioning in the NZ ETS as regulations under the Climate Change Response Act.	CBC: 21-Sep-20

6. OIA requests

6.1. Ministry for the Environment OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
<p>I'm happy to accept the clarification in scope for the second part of the request; 'Copies of the final Climate Change Weekly Updates for the same time period, including any correspondence relating to decisions made for the final versions.'</p> <p>For the first part of the request, I'm happy to refine my request to Documents and correspondence (excluding emails deemed to be of a clearly administrative nature) relating to decisions made for final versions of the national climate change risk assessment, within the time period of 1 May 2020 to 5 August 2020.</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01715 Departmental	MfE	Thurs 1 Oct
<p>1. How can a scenario that is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No mitigation measures being taken by any country •No technical developments applied to reducing emissions •Coal use to increase 650% •Unrealistic population increases be considered seriously for a document that is of such importance to New Zealand and our future? <p>2. What research was carried out by the panel or the Ministry on the current status of RCP8.5?</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01648 Departmental	MfE	Wed 28 October

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
3. What was the panel seeking to achieve by using such an implausible and discredited scenario?					
<p>Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA) / Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)]:</p> <p>(a) data sets and research on the growth rates and sequestration rates of native trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for the Environment and SCION data sets and research on native tree growth rates and sequestration modelling • Other current data relative to this enquiry <p>(b) data sets and research on carbon sequestration of soil carbon, wetlands and ocean based sequestrers (i.e algae/seaweed)</p> <p>(c) NZ emissions data sets and research, for example on:</p> <p>Per capita carbon emissions</p> <p>New Zealand based food emissions</p> <p>Transport emissions</p> <p>Energy consumption patterns, with specific interest in coal fired power generation</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01740	MfE	Tue 6 October

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

6.2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Official advice provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to the Minister of Trade and Export Growth between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (i.e. the date your request was received) regarding trade and climate discussions in the European Union–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) negotiations.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	21-Sep-20
<p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2005 and 2018. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change -through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed between the aforementioned timeframe. -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and -Other documents of relevance <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personal emails -Public lectures and speeches <p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2018 and 2020. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change -through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed in the aforementioned timeframe. 	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland University	<p>Part 1 of 2 sent 4/08</p> <p>Part 2 in preparation</p>

IN CONFIDENCE

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>- Any reports from attending the Wilton Park Forum on the impact of climate change in the Pacific, UK, December 2018.</p> <p>-Communication strategies to address public (mis)understandings of climate-induced migrants.</p> <p>-Government reports related to climate migration from the Pacific Islands Forum 2019</p> <p>-Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.</p> <p>-Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and</p> <p>- Other documents of relevance between 2018-2020.</p> <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <p>-Cabinet Paper progress update: A New Zealand response to Pacific climate migration</p> <p>-Pacific climate change-related displacement and migration: A New Zealand action plan</p> <p>-Public lectures and speeches</p> <p>Please further note that an additional request will follow this email requesting information from a broader timeframe.</p>			
<p>Official advice provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to the Minister of Trade and Export Growth between 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (i.e. the date your request was received) regarding trade and climate discussions in the European Union–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) negotiations.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Stuff	21-Sep-20

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Information from MFAT under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the following specific matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information and/or advice, if any, has MFAT provided to the government in recent years (including any Minister in the government and the staff of any ministerial office) on the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 1998. 2. What assessment, if any, has MFAT undertaken in recent years on whether NZ should become a party to the Aarhus Convention, and what was the conclusion of that assessment. 3. If an assessment has been undertaken in recent years, what conclusions did M F A T reach about the additional requirements (if any) that NZ would need to meet in order to fulfil its obligations as a party to the Convention (i.e. if NZ were to seek to become a party). 4. Did MFAT consult with any other government department or agency in undertaking any assessment of the kind noted in point (2)? <p>If MFAT declines to answer any or all of the previous questions, may I please ask MFAT to specify the reasons for withholding the relevant information, having regard to the provisions of Section 19(a)(ii) of the OIA.</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>	<p>Victoria University of Wellington</p>	<p>5-Oct-20</p>

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982



Weekly update - Minister for Climate Change

Finalised on 24 September for the week commencing 28 September

No MfE Officials' meeting this week

Upcoming meetings 28 September – 9 October

Monday, 28 September

Sustainable Land Use Ministers

Monday 5, October

MfE Officials Meeting

Sustainable Land Use Ministers

MfE Monthly Adaptation Meeting

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

1. Key Decisions

1.1. Becoming a supporter to the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

The Secretariat of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) has congratulated New Zealand on the climate-related financial disclosures announcement on 15 September 2020. They would like to officially confirm the New Zealand Government as a supporter of the TCFD. Becoming a supporter requires an email confirmation and no signed documentation or further commitments.

Over 1,440 organisations around the world are supporters of the TCFD, including the Governments of Canada, Chile, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom

MFAT have confirmed that they are supportive of the proposal from an international perspective, noting that doing so could encourage similar measures to be undertaken by other governments. It would thereby help promote Paris Agreement Article 2.1.c to “...make finance flows consistent with pathways towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development”.

We do not anticipate any risks arising from becoming an official supporter of the TCFD.

Recommendation:

Agree to New Zealand becoming an official supporter of the TCFD **Yes/No**

2. Context

Domestic

2.1. New Zealand and international emissions prices

NZU prices have remained trading between \$35.05 and \$35.15 after first passing the \$35 fixed price option level for 2020 emissions over a week ago. There is market interest in upcoming announcements from the Government regarding auction regulations.

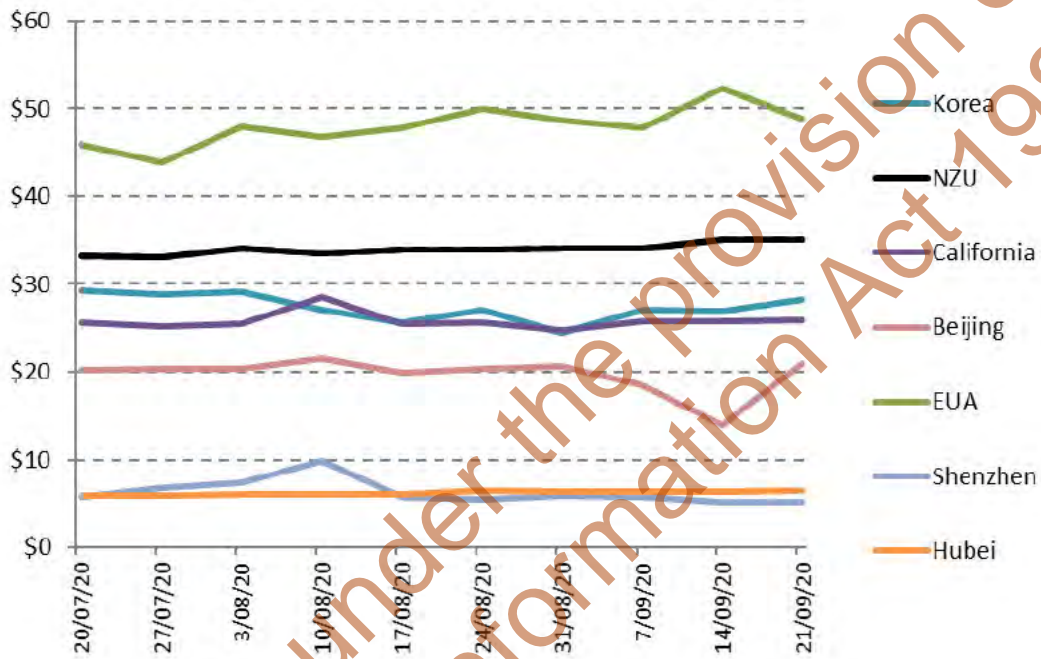
After a significant rise in the EUA price last week, the price dropped back to the level it had previously been trading at. Market commentators suggest this may be in relation to other financial markets, such as European stocks, and concerns related to the COVID-19 resurgence. Further details were also announced regarding the increased ambition of the new EU climate target as proposed by the European Commission. However, the Commission did not propose the significant decrease in the ETS unit supply levels that some traders had been expecting, which might have otherwise pushed the price higher. Any change to the EU target would need to be agreed by both the European Parliament and EU Council.

The South Korean ETS carbon price saw a 5% increase this week. This followed an environment ministry proposal to only allow participants to offset up to 5% of their emissions, and only half of that from international sources.

Table: Current emissions prices

NZU, EUA and California emissions prices (NZD/t CO ₂ e) as at 23 September 2020		
NZU	EUA	California
35.15	48.86	25.97

Chart: Recent trends in international emissions prices



Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

2.2. Motu led voluntary carbon offsetting dialogue with industry

On Monday the 21st of September, Motu held a workshop with government agencies and business representatives on the role of voluntary action and voluntary carbon offsetting. This workshop was intended to start dialogue on why and how voluntary domestic mitigation might be incentivised in New Zealand in the context of the Paris Agreement. The Ministry is developing policy advice on this matter and this workshop, supported by the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority, served well to understand the interests and needs of stakeholders. The workshop confirmed that there is a mixed position on the role of the voluntary market in relation to our climate change targets. There were differing views on whether voluntary action should support or go beyond the ambition of our climate change targets. The Ministry will continue to work with stakeholders to assist with our policy development on this issue.

International

2.3. European Commission proposal for climate action

The European Commission has put forward a proposal to increase its nationally determined contribution (NDC) to a 55 per cent reduction of emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels (compared to 40 per cent currently). However, unlike the previous 40% target, the new target includes CO₂ removals from land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). Critics have commented that given this change the new 55% target would effectively be less than 50% in the current target's terms. Nonetheless this represents enhanced ambition, and the inclusions of LULUCF in calculations aligns with New Zealand's approach to our own NDC.

The announcement includes an amendment to the European Climate Law which was presented in March 2020. It proposes a new NDC target as a steppingstone towards the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target. The proposal will now be considered by the European Member States and the EU Parliament, with a view to a new NDC being submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change before the end of 2020. The Commission's assessment is that current policies, if fully implemented, would achieve a 45 per cent emissions reduction. Therefore, more policies are needed to meet a new target.

The announcement is part of a package of measures, including confirmation that new legislation will be presented by June 2021 on how to implement the new target, revisions and expansion of the EU ETS (which will not include the agriculture sector), energy efficiency and renewable energy policies, and tighter CO₂ standards for road vehicles.

2.4. China announces 2060 carbon neutrality target at UNGA

In China's speech to the UN General Assembly, President Xi Jinping announced China will "aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060." It is likely that these announcements will be the headline commitments of their updated NDC. China's current NDC, presented in 2015 at Paris, commits to peaking emissions by 2030 and cut the carbon intensity of its economy 60-65% from 2005 levels. This announcement follows the 14 September China-Germany-EU leaders' meeting, where the EU pressed China to commit to the 2060 goal and peak emissions by 2025. Xi's speech followed President Trump's speech, where he criticised China's environmental record: "Those who attack America's exceptional environmental record while ignoring China's rampant pollution are not interested in the environment."

2.5. European Union Climate Action Plan update

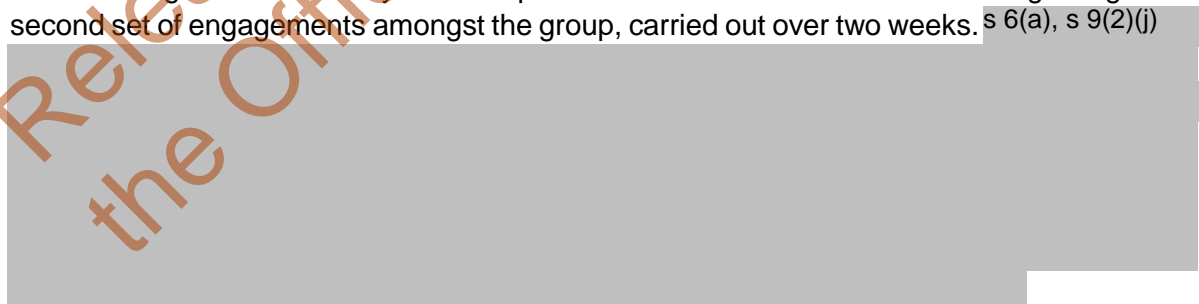
s 6(a)



The EU sees its €1,824 billion, 7-year Covid-19 recovery plan as providing an unprecedented opportunity to push through ambitious climate initiatives, with 30% targeted on climate-related projects. The Commission is hopeful the enormous spending on those initiatives will contribute to the widespread decarbonisation of Europe's economy, which will in turn give Europe a competitive advantage over its major trading partners.

2.6. Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS): negotiations resume

ACCTS chief negotiators (New Zealand, Fiji, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Costa Rica) resumed negotiations virtually on 11 September. The discussion marked the beginning of the second set of engagements amongst the group, carried out over two weeks. s 6(a), s 9(2)(j)



2.7. Australia launches its Technology Investment Roadmap

Australian Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Angus Taylor, released the Low Emissions Technology Statement on 22 September. This sits under Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap and will focus on lower emissions, lower costs and more jobs. The Statement outlines five priority technologies: clean hydrogen; energy storage; low carbon materials (steel and aluminium production); carbon capture and storage; and soil carbon sequestration. The Statement goals will be backed by a Technology Investment Framework that leverages private and public investment.

2.8. Green Climate Fund: 26th Board meeting, 18-21 August 2020

The 26th Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board meeting approved US\$878.8 million for 15 new projects. The GCF now has 143 projects, with a total value of US\$21.2 billion utilising US\$6.2 billion in GCF funding (grants, loans, equities and guarantees). The Pacific now has 12 projects, around 8% of the total. US\$10 million was approved for an agro-photovoltaic project in Ovalau, Fiji. A proposal for accreditation to the Fund from the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation was quietly withdrawn in the face of concerns about its significant role in funding coal-fired power stations.

2.9. UK Government consults on policy to tackle deforestation in global supply chains

The UK Government has recently launched a public consultation on possible domestic legislation to remove illegal deforestation from its international supply chains – an initiative raised with the High Commissioner by the UK's Minister for Pacific and the Environment Zac Goldsmith. The law, if introduced, would aim to protect against deforestation and land conversion by requiring a small number of large UK businesses to undertake due diligence measures for 'forest risk' commodities involved in production and trade. The initiative reflects only some of the recommendations put forward by the UK's Global Resource Initiative (GRI) Taskforce. s 6(a), s 9(2)(i)

It may also have relevance in the context of trade and sustainability discussions in UK-NZ FTA negotiations, as well as New Zealand's bilateral engagement with the UK through its COP26 campaigns.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessments (CIPA)

The CIPA requirement came into force on 1 November 2019. The following table sets out current CIPAs that we are working with agencies on, where the CIPA requirements apply or there is a likely emissions impact.

Paper name	Agency	Status of policy	Our advice on the GHG analysis
Climate Change (Forestry Sector) Regulations	MPI	To be taken to Cabinet in 2021	The CIPA requirements are likely to apply to this proposal as it relates to forestry carbon capture and storage. Emissions impact analysis will be carried out closer to when this set of proposals is taken to Cabinet (Q1 2021).

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

3. OIA requests

3.1. Ministry for the Environment OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
<p>I'm happy to accept the clarification in scope for the second part of the request; 'Copies of the final Climate Change Weekly Updates for the same time period, including any correspondence relating to decisions made for the final versions.'</p> <p>For the first part of the request, I'm happy to refine my request to Documents and correspondence (excluding emails deemed to be of a clearly administrative nature) relating to decisions made for final versions of the national climate change risk assessment, within the time period of 1 May 2020 to 5 August 2020.</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01715 Departmental	MfE	Thurs 1 Oct
<p>1. How can a scenario that is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No mitigation measures being taken by any country •No technical developments applied to reducing emissions •Coal use to increase 650% •Unrealistic population increases be considered seriously for a document that is of such importance to New Zealand and our future? <p>2. What research was carried out by the panel or the Ministry on the current status of RCP8.5?</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01648 Departmental	MfE	Wed 28 October

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Reference	Drafting agency	Date due to send
3. What was the panel seeking to achieve by using such an implausible and discredited scenario?					
<p>Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA) / Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)]:</p> <p>(a) data sets and research on the growth rates and sequestration rates of native trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for the Environment and SCION data sets and research on native tree growth rates and sequestration modelling • Other current data relative to this enquiry <p>(b) data sets and research on carbon sequestration of soil carbon, wetlands and ocean based sequesters (i.e algae/seaweed)</p> <p>(c) NZ emissions data sets and research, for example on:</p> <p>Per capita carbon emissions</p> <p>New Zealand based food emissions</p> <p>Transport emissions</p> <p>Energy consumption patterns, with specific interest in coal fired power generation</p>	s 9(2)(a)		20-D-01740	MfE	Tue 6 October

IN CONFIDENCE

3.2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade OIAs

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2005 and 2018. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change -through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed between the aforementioned timeframe. -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. -Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and -Other documents of relevance <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personal emails -Public lectures and speeches <p>Briefings, analyses and cabinet papers related to climate migration between 2018 and 2020. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any proposed policy changes to accommodate persons displaced from other countries by climate change -through amendments to existing immigration schemes or the introduction of new immigration schemes. -Documents showing how the conversation and language around climate migration developed in the aforementioned timeframe. - Any reports from attending the Wilton Park Forum on the impact of climate change in the Pacific, UK, December 2018. -Communication strategies to address public (mis)understandings of climate-induced migrants. -Government reports related to climate migration from the Pacific Islands Forum 2019 -Considerations about implications for Māori and the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. 	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p>	<p>Auckland University</p>	<p>Part 1 of 2 sent 4/08</p> <p>Part 2 in preparation</p>

Request	Correspondent	Organisation	Date due to send
<p>-Information about the needs and requests of Tuvaluan and Kiribati communities in Aotearoa and abroad, and</p> <p>- Other documents of relevance between 2018-2020.</p> <p>Please note that the following information is not requested:</p> <p>-Cabinet Paper progress update: A New Zealand response to Pacific climate migration</p> <p>-Pacific climate change-related displacement and migration: A New Zealand action plan</p> <p>-Public lectures and speeches</p> <p>Please further note that an additional request will follow this email requesting information from a broader timeframe.</p>			
<p>Information from MFAT under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the following specific matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information and/or advice, if any, has MFAT provided to the government in recent years (including any Minister in the government and the staff of any ministerial office) on the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters 1998. 2. What assessment, if any, has MFAT undertaken in recent years on whether NZ should become a party to the Aarhus Convention, and what was the conclusion of that assessment. 3. If an assessment has been undertaken in recent years, what conclusions did M FAT reach about the additional requirements (if any) that NZ would need to meet in order to fulfil its obligations as a party to the Convention (i.e. if NZ were to seek to become a party). 4. Did MFAT consult with any other government department or agency in undertaking any assessment of the kind noted in point (2)? <p>If MFAT declines to answer any or all of the previous questions, may I please ask MFAT to specify the reasons for withholding the relevant information, having regard to the provisions of Section 19(a)(ii) of the OIA.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	Victoria University of Wellington	5-Oct-20

IN CONFIDENCE