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CORM-3702

Dear 9(2)(a),

I write to respond to your letter dated 1 April 2025 to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, about the Climate Change (Restriction on Civil Proceedings) Bill. I am replying to you as the issues you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister of Climate Change.

The Climate Change (Restriction on Civil Proceedings) Bill is a private member's bill that has been put forward by Joseph Mooney MP. It has not yet been drawn from the ballot for introduction to the House, and the Government does not have a position on the Bill. If it is drawn, political parties will vote on it in Parliament in accordance with the usual process for legislation. There is more information on the Parliamentary process for members' bills on the Parliament website at <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/research-papers/document/00PLLawRP2017011/members-bills>.

This Government is committed to meeting New Zealand's emissions reduction targets. New Zealand has established rigorous climate change mitigation targets, which include domestic targets set by legislation (the 2050 target) and international emissions reduction targets for 2030 under the Paris Agreement, known as our first Nationally Determined Contribution.

To support the achievement of these targets, in April 2024 the Government made reducing net emissions one of its nine targets to achieving better results from the public service, to keep New Zealand on track to reach net zero emissions for long-lived gases by 2050. The public service target is focused on reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to no more than 290Mt CO₂-e from 2022 to 2025 and 305Mt CO₂-e from 2026 to 2030. This is aligned with our emissions budgets.

As part of its commitment to our targets, the Government has developed a climate change strategy that sets out the approach to how it will deliver on New Zealand's climate goals. The strategy focuses on five pillars, making sure:

- infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared
- credible markets support the climate transition
- clean energy is abundant and affordable
- world-leading climate innovation boosts the economy
- nature-based solutions address climate change.

While the climate change strategy outlines our overall approach to the climate response, our second emissions reduction plan (ERP-2), which was released in December 2024, is our key tool to bring the strategy to life. ERP-2 will set out policy proposals across the five pillars of the climate change strategy and will focus on the largest sources of emissions in New Zealand – the energy, transport, agriculture, forestry and waste sectors.

More information on ERP-2 is available on the Ministry for the Environment website at <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/emissions-reductions/>.

Thank you again for writing to me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change