



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Factsheets for Estimates 2019/2020

Climate change reporting

This is part of a series of fact sheets prepared for the Environment Committee's 2019/20 Estimates examination of Vote Environment.

New Zealand's climate change reporting involves:

- meeting New Zealand's international greenhouse gas reporting obligations
- participating in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change process
- supporting domestic action on climate change
- maintaining and improving the Land Use Carbon Analysis System (LUCAS).

Key responsibilities of climate change reporting

Meeting New Zealand's international greenhouse gas reporting obligations

In 2018/19 the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, New Zealand's official report on its emissions and removals, was published and submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This included emissions from Tokelau for the first time, which is a requirement as part of New Zealand's ratification of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

New Zealand's fourth Biennial Report, which is New Zealand's official report on its progress towards addressing climate change, is being prepared in 2018/19 and 2019/20 for publication in December 2019.

Participating in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) process

New Zealand is an active participant in the IPCC process in which climate change science from around the world is debated and agreed. In 2018/19 New Zealand contributed to:

- the IPCC Special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions pathways
- the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (this was due to be completed in May 2019).

In 2019/20 the IPCC will finalise two special reports on topics of interest to New Zealand – climate change and land, and climate change and oceans. In parallel the IPCC will also make progress on the next full assessment report (the sixth assessment report), which is to be finalised in the first half of 2022.

Supporting domestic action on climate change

In 2018/19 the Ministry for the Environment provided updated guidance about the voluntary reporting of greenhouse gases by individuals and businesses. This is used widely to measure and report on greenhouse gases, and is one way the Ministry supports domestic action on climate change.

Land Use Carbon Analysis System (LUCAS)

The LUCAS team ensures that New Zealand meets its international greenhouse gas reporting obligations and tracks progress against its climate change targets from a land-use and forestry perspective.

- The LUCAS team provides an evidence base to support our international and domestic policy settings on land-use and forestry.
- LUCAS is a large contributor to the Ministry for the Environment's environmental reporting programme, and the Department of Conservation's national biodiversity monitoring programme. The information is also used in StatsNZ's environmental economic accounts, and in a Treasury wellbeing measure.

Funding for climate change analysis and land use carbon analysis

Climate change analysis

Funding for climate change analysis is split across domestic and international policy advice appropriations. In 2018/19, \$1.55 million was spent on climate change analysis.

LUCAS (under the Carbon Monitoring Programme)

- In 2018/19, \$2.9 million was spent on LUCAS.
- A large proportion of the LUCAS budget funds the collection of forest and land-use data that is essential for reporting progress against New Zealand's targets.

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