



Submissions analysis on the emissions reduction plan consultation

Date Submitted:	3 February 2021	Tracking #: BRF-1046	
Security Level	Policy and Privacy In-Confidence	MfE Priority:	Not Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
Hon James SHAW, Minister of Climate Change	Read the attached report	8 Feb 2022

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	Forward this report to Climate Response Ministerial Group Ministers Return the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments 1	1. Emissions Reduction Plan Submissions Analysis report

Key contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Lauren Smith		
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Director	Melody Guy		

Submissions analysis on the emissions reduction plan consultation

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with a copy of *Emissions Reduction Plan Submissions Analysis* (Appendix 1). It also sets out key messages received from submitters during consultation on the emissions reduction plan, and outlines next steps.
2. In general there were high levels of support for the proposals in the emissions reduction plan (ERP) discussion document, although many wanted the Government to take more urgent and ambitious climate action, sought more detail on the proposals or wanted more support to implement the plan.

Context

3. Public consultation on the ERP discussion document *Te hau mārohi ki anamata - Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future* was held between 13 October and 24 November 2021.
4. Throughout the consultation period the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), supported by the interagency ERP team, hosted a series of 19 webinars and workshops. This included workshops with iwi/Māori, local government representatives, and a public webinar series offering both overview and sector specific webinars.
5. MfE received 10,050 submissions from individuals, community groups, iwi, companies, sector organisations, local government, academics and non-governmental organisations. Most submissions (9,479) were made by individuals and included over 7,300 template submissions from Forest & Bird, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand and World Wildlife Fund.
6. Public policy consulting firm Allen + Clark was commissioned to analyse submissions and provide MfE and the wider interagency ERP team with a comprehensive report. Insights from the webinar and workshop series were also incorporated at a high level, feedback from these sessions was broadly in line with the content of submissions
7. The final version of the report was provided to MfE on 12 January 2021. MfE has shared the report with other agencies to inform policy development.

Emissions Reduction Plan Submissions Analysis (Appendix 1)

The report is divided into four parts:

- Part 1 provides an overview of the consultation and submissions analysis process and a summary of overall themes and key messages.
- Parts 2, 3 and 4 mirror chapter themes in the ERP consultation document. For each chapter, analysis is divided into
 - i. key themes
 - ii. responses to individual questions.

Methodology and limitations

8. Submissions were received via both an online submission tool and email. Unique content in form submissions was included in the analysis alongside unique submissions. Submissions were then analysed based on themes and questions in the discussion document.
9. Most responses (94%) came from individual submissions, including template submissions. These were typically short and focused on high-level views. Approximately 571 organisations provided detailed submissions. In general, questions concerning more technical subject matters received fewer responses. This means responses to technical questions may have been influenced by participation bias and may be less representative of total submissions than responses to questions that received many answers.

Submission themes and key messages

10. Across submissions Allen + Clarke identified a number of key themes¹:
 - More action is needed, and submitters want that action more urgently.
 - A call for transformational systems-level change instead of a focus on specific (e.g. sector-specific) mitigation solutions.
 - A need to consider the co-benefits of climate action (in health, biodiversity and accessibility in particular).
 - Genuine Te Tiriti partnership, including drawing on kaupapa Māori approaches and mātauranga Māori concepts.
 - Calls for more education and information across many areas of the ERP.
 - Solutions for urban and rural areas must be different, as there was acknowledgement from submitters that rural communities have less scope for reducing emissions than urban centres.
 - An equitable transition across and within sectors.
 - Industry submitters discussed the challenges they face to manage the transition and support working closely with Government to address these.
 - The tourism sector was missing in the discussion document, although opinions varied on how tourism may be incorporated into the ERP.
 - Broader economic models should be applied beyond GDP analysis, including circular economy principles, a wellbeing approach and less overall consumption.
 - Support for a nature-based solutions approach to climate change action.
 - The role of New Zealand on the global stage.
11. Overall, key messages in the 7,300 template submissions received show support for nature-based solutions, regenerative agriculture, an equitable and Te Tiriti-based transition, and enabling households to reduce emissions through urban design, transport and energy mode shifts.

¹ Pages 13-16, Appendix 1.

Key messages from webinars and workshops

12. Key messages from workshops have been integrated into the submissions analysis report. However, the report does not provide a separate section that directly reflects feedback received through conversations and comments at webinars and workshops. The summary below provides you with an overview of overarching themes heard during the webinars as well as high-level feedback from iwi/Māori and local government received during online workshops.

Overarching themes

13. Overall, comments received at webinars and workshops highlighted the need for an equitable transition, behaviour change and further clarity on proposed policies, modelling, measuring and reporting.
14. Participants stressed the need to identify and leverage interactions between sectors and to consider what can be learnt from international examples. They wanted further detail on funding and financing and saw a need for incentives and disincentives in relation to sectors such as forestry, transport, building and construction. Concerns over consultation fatigue and how outcomes of previous consultations will feed into the ERP were also raised.
15. Participants in overview webinars noted that solutions across sectors cannot be 'one size fits all' and that connected industries (covered by the sector strategies), such as health and tourism seemed to be missing from the ERP consultation document.

Iwi/Māori workshops

16. Workshop participants called for an equitable transition with good governance led by a te ao Māori view. Skills-development, investment for Māori engaged in climate action, and emissions reduction efforts which support other wellbeing outcomes are needed.
17. There was a sense that the COVID-19 pandemic has constrained input. The Government was encouraged to create engagement opportunities, broaden its reach with Māori, and consider how to partner with Māori on major investments.

Local government workshops

18. Local government sessions sought clarity on roles and responsibilities, as well as funding and finance mechanisms which support long-term planning.
19. Discussion called for a closer local and central government partnership to support implementation, co-development, and capacity at local level. Additionally, attendees noted iwi should be at the decision-making table and that working with local government should be included in the ERP.

Next steps

20. The *Emissions Reduction Plan Submissions Analysis* report has been shared with the ERP interagency team and is being used to inform policy development.
21. We intend to publish the report on the Ministry for the Environment's website when the ERP is released.

22. We also intend to publish all submissions once the ERP has been released.

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

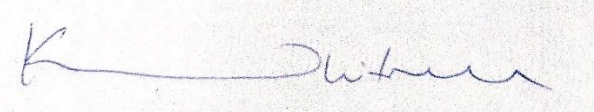
a. **Agree** to forward this briefing and the *Emissions Reduction Plans Submissions Analysis* report to the Climate Response Ministerial Group.

Yes/No

b. **Agree** to publish the *Emissions Reduction Plans Submissions Analysis* report on the Ministry for the Environment’s website once the ERP has been released.

Yes/No

Signature

Kate Whitwell Team leader – ERP, CIPA and National Direction Climate Directorate	
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Hon James SHAW, Minister of Climate Change	
Date	

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Appendix 1: Emissions Reduction Plan Submissions Analysis report

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