



Cabinet talking points - Government accountability and coordination of the emissions reduction plan

Date Submitted:	24 February 2022	Tracking #: BRF-1237	
Security Level	Policy and Privacy In-Confidence	MfE Priority:	Not Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
Hon James SHAW, Minister of Climate Change	Note the attached talking points prior to DEV on 2 March 2022.	2 March 2022

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	Return the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments #1	Appendix 1: Cabinet Committee talking points: accountability & coordination of the emissions reduction plan

Key contacts

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Cabinet talking points - Government accountability and coordination

Key Messages


1. This briefing provides you with talking points to support discussion on the Cabinet paper 'Emissions reduction plan: Government accountability and coordination' at the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV).
2. This paper will be considered at DEV on 2 March 2022, ahead of Cabinet on Monday 7 March 2022.
3. Talking points are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the attached talking points prior to DEV on 2 March 2022.

Signature

Lewis Stevens Principal Analyst Climate Change Directorate	
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Hon James SHAW, Minister of Climate Change	
Date	

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Appendix 1: Cabinet talking points: accountability & coordination

1. The upcoming publication of the emissions reduction plan (“the plan”) requires a shift from developing our climate response to implementing it.
 - a. Implementation of the plan will be a challenge. Climate change does not fit neatly with our traditional public sector structures and portfolios, which have linear accountabilities between portfolio ministers and Chief Executives (CEs).
 - b. To continue momentum, we need institutional settings that will promote cross-agency coordination and can provide strategic advice to the Government.
 - c. The success of the Government’s climate response is reliant on strong and clear Ministerial direction that the plan continues to be a government priority.
2. This paper seeks Cabinet’s agreement to a suite of accountability mechanisms:
 - a. formalising the Climate Change Chief Executives Board as an Interdepartmental Executive Board (IEB) under the Public Service Act 2020;
 - b. defining specific accountabilities for Ministers, individual public sector Chief Executives and the joint Climate Change Chief Executives;
 - c. establishing (subject to funding approved through Budget 2022) a monitoring and reporting system, to ensure progress is understood and can inform active management of the plan at the economy, sector, and policy package levels;
 - d. developing guidance to help public sector agents consider climate change objectives in their decision-making.
3. We need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Ministers, individual CEs and the joint Climate Change CEs. Formalised responsibilities will help to keep us on track.
 - a. An IEB is the right vehicle for joint CEs to support implementation. IEBs are intended to support a joined-up approach on cross-cutting Government priorities that cannot be solved by a single agency.
 - b. Ministers and individual CEs will be assigned a sector sub-target, and responsible actions listed in the plan. Ministers will be publicly accountable for these through progress reporting and incentivised to make decisions consistent with sector sub-targets.
 - c. This approach will ensure Ministers are leading from the front, and signal to CEs that implementation of the plan is a top priority. The IEB will coordinate implementation of cross-cutting policies and advise Ministers on progress.
4. Establishment of a monitoring and reporting framework is dependent on securing funding through Budget 2022. Officials will develop monitoring requirements alongside the finalisation of the plan.