



Climate Change Chief Executives Board

Statement of intent 2023-2027



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Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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Introduction

Climate change affects all aspects of our economy, our society, and our lives. We need to reduce our emissions and adapt to climate change. This requires government agencies to work together to meet our 2050 targets and address the risks of climate change.

Aotearoa New Zealand's first [emissions reduction plan \(ERP\)](#) and [national adaptation plan \(NAP\)](#) represent an all-of-government approach to climate change. They contain initiatives designed to ensure that we meet our emissions budgets and long-term adaptation goals. Implementing those plans and ensuring they stay on track is critical.

Each individual government agency is responsible for implementing their own actions in the emissions reduction plan and the national adaptation plan. We also need to consider progress against emissions budgets at the whole economy level, our adaptation goals, and provide collective advice to allow these plans to adapt, as new information and options become available.

The establishment of an interdepartmental executive board – called the Climate Change Chief Executives Board (the Board) – formalises the cross-agency role in providing this collective advice. The Board is established under the Public Service Act 2020.

This document covers the period from 2023 to 2027.

About the Climate Change Chief Executives Board

Purpose

The Climate Change Chief Executives Board was legally established as an interdepartmental executive board on 29 July 2022.

The Board will focus on Aotearoa New Zealand's long-term climate change strategy, ensuring Aotearoa stays on track to meet its commitments.

It will monitor and report on the delivery of actions in the emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plan. It will also advise on the overall effectiveness and future direction of the two plans and ensure domestic emissions budgets and our adaptation goals are met.

A key priority of the Board is to provide advice on how to navigate the path towards Aotearoa New Zealand's long-term climate change goals, responding to challenges and taking opportunities as they arise. It will work with global and domestic experts, and look across the entire system, to accelerate or remove barriers to climate action as needed.

The Board will engage with businesses with ambitious carbon reduction programmes that intersect with government policy.

Board membership

The Board currently comprises chief executives of relevant agencies, chaired by the Secretary for the Environment.

The Board's current membership is:

- Te Hēkeretari mō te Taiao – Secretary for the Environment (Chairperson of the Board)
- Te Hēkeretari mō Te Tai Ōhanga – Secretary to the Treasury
- Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Papa Atawhai – Director-General of Conservation
- Te Tumu Whakarae mō Manatū Ahu Matua – Director-General of Primary Industries
- Te Hēkeretari mō Hīkina Whakatutuki – Secretary for Business, Innovation and Employment
- Te Hēkeretari mō Te Manatū Waka – Secretary for Transport
- Te Rākau Whakamarumarū – Chief Executive Officer of the National Emergency Management Agency
- Te Tari Taiwhenua – Secretary for Internal Affairs

Other roles

The Board reports directly to the Prime Minister as the 'appropriate Minister' for the Board under the Public Service Act 2020.

The Board also advises the Climate Response Ministers Group (CRMG), the CRMG is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Minister of Climate Change as deputy chair.

The Minister of Climate Change is the 'appropriations Minister' and the 'responsible Minister' of the Board under the Public Finance Act 1989.

The Board is supported by a Secretariat, which is hosted by the Ministry for the Environment. An Executive Director for the Board has been appointed.

The Deputy Solicitor-General has been appointed as an independent advisor to help the Board manage the legal risks associated with the climate change work programme.

Our strategic objectives

Each agency is responsible for implementing its own actions in the emissions reduction plan. The Board's role is to support the successful implementation of the emissions reduction plan by taking a cross-agency view and providing collective advice to Ministers that prioritises action and presents trade-offs, and system-level implications, risks and opportunities.

The Board's strategic intentions through to 2027 are to:

- build cross-government understanding and strategic approach that aligns with and combines the Government's overall economic wellbeing strategy with its climate change response
- support Aotearoa New Zealand to meet our first three emissions budgets and deliver the national adaptation plan by coordinating an all-of-government approach to climate policy, including:
 - monitoring and reporting against the emissions reduction plan, emissions budgets, and national adaptation plan
 - providing adaptive management advice to provide for any necessary 'course correction' and to seize new opportunities
 - connecting with groups that have a broad interest in climate, to focus on identifying barriers and opportunities across the system or where a system-level response is needed to enable action.

The Board will undertake the following functions to support these strategic intentions:

- coordinate the implementation of cross-agency actions and strategies in the emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plan
- monitor and report on overall progress towards delivering the emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plan
- advise on how to respond to results of monitoring and reporting, including how to manage 'overs and unders' across sectors in achieving emissions budgets, and where changes to our adaptation response may be required
- publish monitoring reports on plans, sub-targets, and implementation

The Board's work programme, designed to achieve these strategic intentions, is set out below.

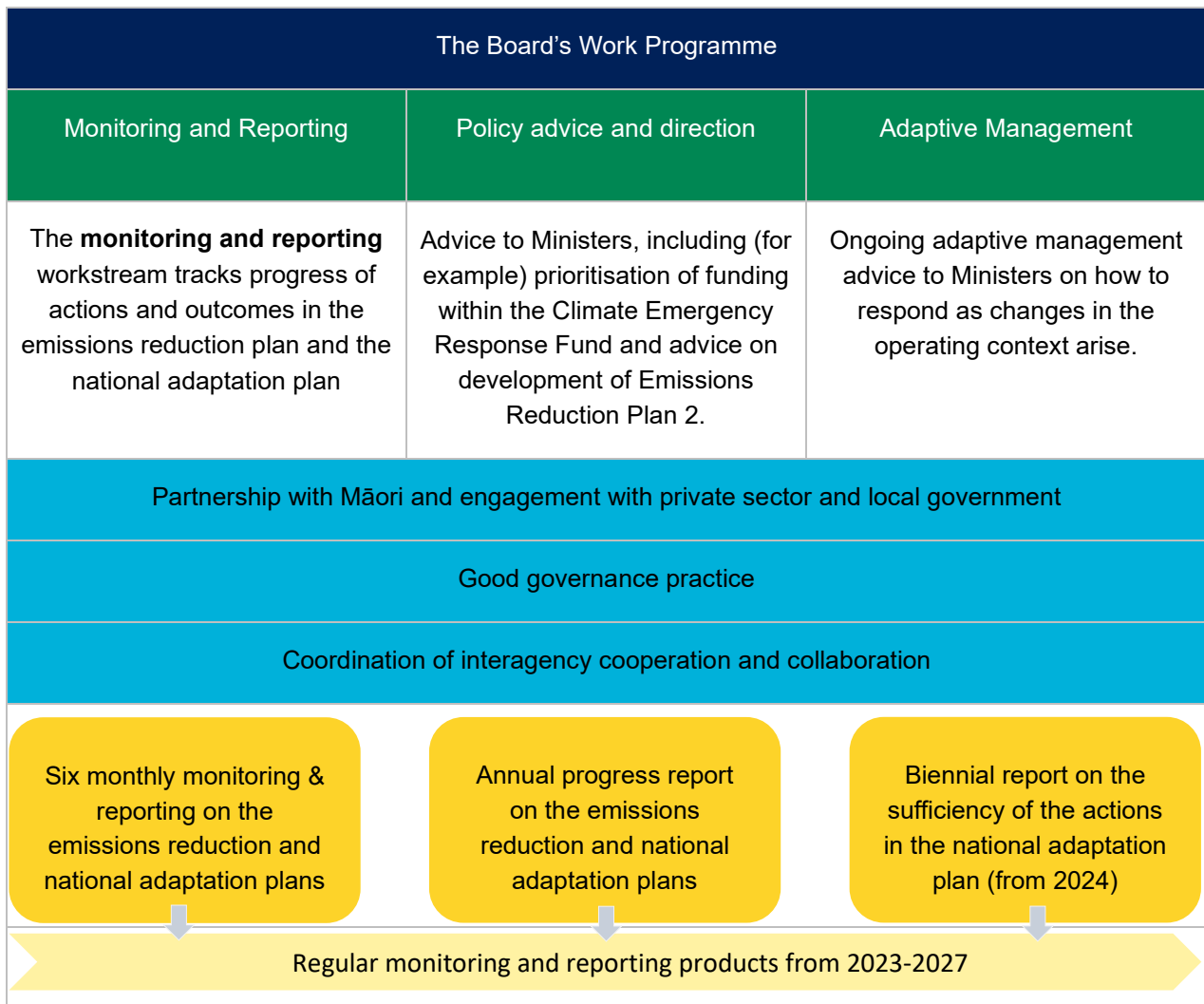
The Board's work will focus on four key questions:

- How are we tracking on the most important interventions for achieving the first three emissions budgets, and our adaptation goals?
- Are the expected emissions reductions being delivered, and do we need to change course?
- Are our climate adaptation goals being delivered, and do we need to change course?
- Are there gaps in our approach, new economic dynamics that are accelerating or preventing emissions reductions, or significant barriers or opportunities?

Our work

The Board's work programme will evolve in response to government expectations and operating context. It is outlined below in figure 1. The three central workstreams of monitoring and reporting, policy advice and direction, and adaptive management, will be underpinned by the Board's work on partnership with Māori and engagement with the private sector, good governance practices, and collaboration across the public service.

Figure 1: The Climate Change Interdepartmental Executive Board work programme



Monitoring and reporting

The monitoring and reporting workstream will inform ongoing adaptive management decisions which will be needed to stay on track and meet emissions budgets.

Monitoring has two parts:

- emissions monitoring (which will build on the existing monitoring and reporting system for Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions to make reliable data available more quickly)
- implementation monitoring (how is the implementation of the ERP and NAP tracking).

This monitoring will help draw conclusions about progress across the ERP and NAP, and inform advice to Ministers on any required changes, consistent with an adaptive management approach.

Together the ERP and NAP represent more than 400 actions across government. The Board has identified particular priorities to help focus its work on the most impactful areas across the portfolio. These areas will develop and change over time as context shifts.

The Board's current priorities in the ERP are:

- The review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (including emissions leakage and forestry incentives)
- He Waka Eke Noa and making progress in reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions
- The Energy Strategy, including early decisions to help provide investment certainty, enhancing the resilience of the energy sector, and supporting access to affordable energy
- Transport mode shift implementation
- Developing ERP2 (2026 to 2030) as this will further set the direction for our domestic response out to 2050
- Partnerships to support abatement of New Zealand's largest emitters.

The Board's current priorities in the NAP are:

- Access to the right data and information to take adaptation action
- Managed retreat (and advancing the Climate Adaptation Bill)
- Flood-resilient built environment and communities
- Strategic infrastructure

Policy advice and direction

The Board will provide advice to Ministers on issues which cut across the climate change response. This includes, for example, prioritisation of funding within the Climate Emergency Response Fund. The Board will also provide strategic governance and direction as the second emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plans are developed and provide advice on other strategic policy matters as needed.

Adaptive management

The **adaptive management** workstream, informed by the **monitoring, engagement** and **partnering with Māori** work, will help us identify how we course correct as risks arise and seize new opportunities. The **adaptive management** workstream will:

- provide a practical view of our long-term goals by developing a range of plausible scenarios for a low-emissions and resilient 2050 Aotearoa
- give clarity on when corrective action is required through advice to Ministers help ensure viable options are available by working with agencies to build contingency into plans
- help our response to be agile to changing circumstances by identifying threats and opportunities early
- help guide New Zealand's approach to climate policy by reviewing international best practice and providing advice on improvements (for example increasing the uptake of low emissions technologies or practices)
- The goal of this work is to make sure we know when corrective action is needed.

Performance indicators

Strategic objectives	Support Aotearoa New Zealand’s transition as we develop a low emissions, climate resilient economy and society by monitoring our progress and advising Government on any changes needed to meet that goal.
Impact measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board coordinates the implementation of cross-agency actions and strategies in the emissions reduction plan and the national adaptation plan. • The Board actively monitors and reports against the emissions reduction plan, the national adaptation plan, and emissions budgets through annual and biennial reports. • The Board takes an adaptive management approach that enables the government to be agile in response to differences in the planned and actual pace and impact of initiatives across the two plans. • The Board is well connected across the public and private sector and with Māori to enable positive climate action, identify barriers and opportunities in the climate response and uphold Te Tiriti principles.
Impact (3–5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of emissions reduction activities on abatement are understood and tracked with as little lag as possible. • New Zealand’s resilience to climate change impacts is well understood, there is a clear understanding of goals and measures needed to achieve them. • Climate change policy decisions are made in the context of the economic cycle and resources are targeted at policies with the greatest potential to deliver abatement.
Long-term outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aotearoa is able to meet its emissions budgets and climate resilience goals by adapting our policy approach to address risks and take advantage of new opportunities. • Climate change and economic policy programmes are mutually reinforcing and support an equitable transition to new areas of economic activity over time.

Chairperson and Minister's statements

In signing this information, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the information on strategic intentions for the Climate Change Chief Executives Board. This information has been prepared in accordance with section 38 and section 40 of the Public Finance Act 1989.



James Palmer, Chairperson of the Board

23rd August 23

I am satisfied that the information on strategic intentions prepared by the Climate Change Chief Executives Board is consistent with the policies and performance expectations of the Government.



Hon James Shaw, Minister of Climate Change

25 August 2023