



Climate Change Chief Executives Board

Statement of Intent 2026–31



This document may be cited as: Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. 2026. *Climate Change Chief Executives Board: Strategic Intentions 2026–31*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

Published in August 2026 by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport on behalf of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.

PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143, New Zealand

ISBN: 978-1-997358-07-7

Publication number: MCERT 8

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Contents

Introduction 2

About the Climate Change Chief Executives Board 3

 Our purpose 3

 Our governance and secretariat arrangements..... 3

 Our membership..... 3

Strategic intentions 4

 Our strategic objectives 4

Chairperson and Minister’s statements 6

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 emissions budgets and 2050 targets and address the risks of climate change.

Aotearoa New Zealand's [emissions reduction plans](#) (ERPs) and [national adaptation plans](#) (NAPs) represent an all-of-government approach to climate change. They are published every 5 years and 6 years respectively, and contain initiatives designed to ensure that we meet our emissions budgets and long-term adaptation goals. Implementing those plans and ensuring action stays on track is critical.

Each government agency is responsible for implementing their own actions in the ERPs and the NAP. We also need to consider progress against emissions budgets across the whole economy, and how we are progressing towards our shared adaptation goals. This will help us develop collective advice on how to move these plans forward as new information and options become available.

The Climate Change Chief Executives Board (the Board) formalises this cross-agency collaboration. The Board is established under the Public Service Act 2020.

This document covers the period from 2026 to 2031.

About the Climate Change Chief Executives Board

Our purpose

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

The Board provides collective and strategic leadership to progress climate change outcomes through the public sector. It co-ordinates and collaborates across portfolios to deliver Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change plans and long-term climate change strategy, helping to ensure New Zealand stays on track to meet its commitments.

The Board provides oversight of the Government's response to climate change, providing collective advice to Ministers on overall progress. This includes keeping track of how well actions in each emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plan are progressing, giving joint advice on how effective the plans are, and identifying any changes that are needed.

Our governance and secretariat arrangements

Under section 28 of the Public Service Act 2020, the Board is responsible to the appropriate Minister designated by the Prime Minister. Currently, this is the Minister of Climate Change. The Board can also advise any climate Ministerial group set up to govern cross-portfolio climate change issues.

For the purposes of the Public Finance Act 1989 (PFA), the Minister of Climate Change is the appropriations Minister and responsible Minister for the Board. Under the PFA, the Board is a specified agency. The Board is supported by a Secretariat, hosted by the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. Employment policies and obligations for staff in the Secretariat (including equal employment opportunities and te reo Māori language planning) are managed in accordance with the Ministry's policies.

Our membership

The remit of the Board includes agencies with climate change policy and implementation responsibilities. It is chaired by the Secretary for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.

The Board's membership is:

- Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport – Secretary (Chairperson of the Board)
- The Treasury | Te Hēkeretari mō Te Tai Ōhanga – Secretary
- Department of Conservation | Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Papa Atawhai – Director-General
- Ministry for Primary Industries | Te Tumu Whakarae mō Manatū Ahu Matua – Director-General
- Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment | Te Hēkeretari mō Hīkina Whakatutuki – Secretary
- National Emergency Management Agency | Tāhūhū rangapū mō Te Rākau Whakamarumarū – Chief Executive.

The Deputy Solicitor-General has been appointed as an independent adviser to the Board. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade is an agency within the Board's remit and participates in Board meetings.

Strategic intentions

Our work programme and operating context is driven by our three strategic objectives, with more detailed functions flowing from each objective. Performance measures have been identified for each objective so we can assess whether we are on track to achieve our objectives and provide accountability and transparency to Ministers and Parliament through MCERT's annual reporting process.

Our strategic objectives

The Board's strategic objectives to 2031 are:

1. **Governance and oversight** – Provide strategic governance and collective oversight of New Zealand's response to climate change.
2. **Monitor and report progress** – Monitor and report on progress toward implementing the Government's climate priorities.
3. **Collective advice** – Provide collective advice to Ministers on climate change risks, issues and opportunities, and to enable timely course correction.

Objective 1: Governance and oversight

Provide strategic governance and collective oversight of New Zealand's response to climate change.

Under this objective, the Board provides collaborative governance of New Zealand's climate change response by setting expectations for how agencies work together across portfolios and by providing stewardship for the system as a whole. This includes:

- maintaining a system-level view on risks and opportunities
- promoting effective cross-agency collaboration and alignment on climate change priorities across mitigation and adaptation
- identifying cross-cutting issues and interdependencies and coordinating action across portfolios
- supporting cross-portfolio Ministerial decision-making.

Performance measures

- 1.1 The Board meets regularly to consider and provide oversight of system-level risks, priorities and progress with respect to New Zealand's climate change response.
- 1.2 The Board agrees and directs coordinated cross-agency actions or joint work programmes, as needed, to address identified cross-cutting issues and opportunities.

Objective 2: Monitor and report progress

Monitor and report on progress toward implementing the Government's climate priorities.

Under this objective, the Board maintains a system-level view of progress across New Zealand's climate change response and to provide Ministers with clear, timely reporting on whether actions are being implemented as intended and remain sufficient to address identified risks. This includes:

- coordinating the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the ERP and NAP across agencies and assessing whether New Zealand is tracking towards meeting emissions budgets and targets
- monitoring and reporting to Ministers on overall progress towards implementing the ERP
- reporting to Ministers annually on the implementation of the NAP as a whole and every two years on the overall sufficiency of the actions to address the risks within the scope of the NAP
- publishing monitoring reports on the ERP and NAP.

Implementation of this objective is co-ordinated by the CCIEB Unit, collaborating with agencies to provide a system-wide view of progress under the Board's oversight.

Performance measure

- 2.1 The Board undertakes regular cross-agency monitoring and reporting and reports are published where required.

Objective 3: Collective advice

Provide collective advice to Ministers on climate change risks, issues and opportunities, and to enable timely course correction.

Under this objective, the Board provides collective, cross-portfolio advice to Ministers on the sufficiency of current settings and critical matters that cut across New Zealand's climate change response. This includes:

- advising ministers on areas where current settings are working as intended, as well as where pressures, gaps or emerging risks may require attention or further direction
- identifying system-level risks, interdependencies and trade-offs that are not readily visible from individual agency perspectives and articulating their implications for government priorities.

The Board has a particular role in advising the Government on how to respond to the results of monitoring and reporting on progress toward achieving the ERP (including sector progress, data and information) and emissions budgets. This process is known as adaptive management and comprises an annual assessment of risks to the second emissions budget, to help identify whether course correction is necessary.

The Board's advice focuses on strategic choices and implications rather than detailed delivery decisions. It is intended to support Ministers to make informed decisions about priorities, sequencing and coordination across portfolios, while agencies retain responsibility for implementation within their statutory mandates.

Performance measure

- 3.1 The Board provides collective advice to the Minister/Ministers to support New Zealand's climate change response, and in particular, decisions on ERPs, emissions budgets and NAPs.

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.

A blue ink signature of Jeremy Lightfoot, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'L'.

Jeremy Lightfoot, Chairperson of the Board

17 August 2026

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.

A black ink signature of Hon Simon Watts, written in a cursive style.

Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change

18 August 2026