

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Revenue



30 APR 2024

David MacLeod
Chairperson, Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: environment@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe David,

Request to conclude inquiry into climate adaptation

I would like to thank the Committee for your work to date on the inquiry into climate adaptation. Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Floods reinforced the critical nature of climate change adaptation, and it is important to maintain momentum.

I consider broad public consultation and cross-party consensus is needed prior to developing legislation on adaptation. Given the complexity of adaptation matters, I also consider it important to take a more targeted approach by focusing on key elements, such as investment and cost-sharing.

In order to facilitate this and build on your work, I am proposing that the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC) commence an inquiry into adaptation with a more focused Terms of Reference. The FEC has all parties of parliament represented in its membership, which will be important for consensus-building.

My intention is to lodge a notice of motion to initiate the new inquiry on adaptation. The motion will state that the new inquiry must take into account the submissions to your inquiry.

To conclude your inquiry, I suggest a short final report without recommendations, noting the steps the inquiry has taken to date and the proposed establishment of the FEC inquiry.

I welcome further discussion with you on these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change