

Climate Change Chief Executives Board

He takunetanga rautaki

Strategic intentions

2023–2027



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant
to section 39 of the Public Finance Act 1989

This document may be cited as: Ministry for the Environment. 2023. *Climate Change Chief Executives Board: Strategic intentions 2023–2027*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

Published in February 2023 by the
Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board
Manatū Mō Te Taiao
PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143, New Zealand

ISBN: 978-1-991077-16-5

Publication number: ME 1725

© Crown copyright New Zealand 2023

This document is available on the Ministry for the Environment website: environment.govt.nz.

Contents

Introduction	4
About the Climate Change Chief Executives Board	5
Purpose	5
Board membership	5
Other roles	6
Our strategic objectives	6
Our work	7
Delivering on our strategic intentions	8
Performance indicators	10
Chairperson and Minister’s statements	11

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](#) and [national adaptation plan](#) 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 now critical.

Individual government agencies will implement the actions in the plans that they are responsible for. We also need to consider progress against emissions budgets at the whole economy level and provide collective advice to allow these plans to adapt, as new information and options become available. Having the right institutional settings in place allows us to adapt our plans, to mitigate risks and to seize opportunities.

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 (the Board) was legally established as an interdepartmental executive board on 29 July 2022 to provide oversight of the Government's response to climate change.

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 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 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

After the Board was established, Cabinet agreed that the Board would also be responsible for overseeing the overall implementation of the national adaptation plan, periodically assessing its sufficiency and advising where course corrections are needed. The remit of the Board will be expanded by Order in Council under the Public Service Act 2020 to include agencies responsible for delivering actions in the national adaptation plan (National Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Internal Affairs). This is expected to be finalised in March 2023. This document will be updated to reflect the formal changes to the Board's membership and any other changes that may be appropriate following the completion of the Order in Council.

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), a sub-group of 12 ministers responsible for cross-sector matters relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand’s climate change response. 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. The Secretariat 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 by coordinating an all-of-government approach to climate policy, including:
 - monitoring and reporting against the emissions reduction plan and emissions budgets
 - 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
- advise Ministers on progress against the sector sub-targets outlined in the plan, and coordinate the implementation of the emissions reduction plan (including sector sub-targets) across portfolios
- monitor and report on overall progress towards achieving the emissions reduction plan (including sector sub-targets)
- advise on how to respond to results of monitoring and reporting, including how to manage ‘overs and unders’ in achieving sector sub-targets
- publish monitoring reports on plans, sub-targets, and implementation

- undertake all existing functions of the Cabinet-mandated Climate Change Chief Executives Board.

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

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

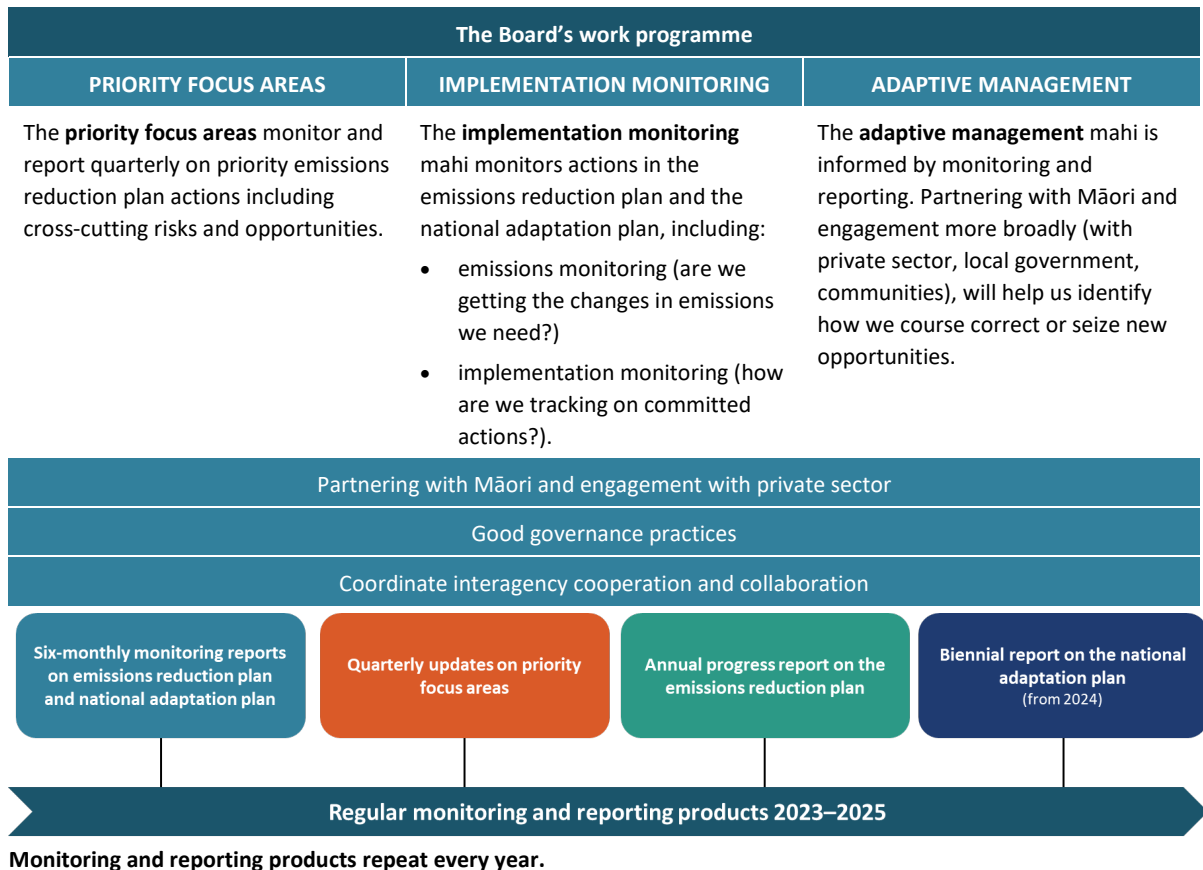
- How are we tracking on the most important interventions for achieving the first three emissions budgets?
- Are the expected emissions reductions being delivered and do we need to change course?
- Are there gaps in our approach, new economic dynamics that are accelerating or preventing emissions reductions,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

Our work

The Board's work programme will evolve in response to government expectations and operating context (including expanding the remit to cover climate adaptation).

The Board's work programme is outlined in figure 1.

Figure 1: The Climate Change Chief Executives Board work programme



Delivering on our strategic intentions

How are we tracking on the most important interventions for achieving the first three emissions budgets?

The dedicated **priority focus areas** workstream will develop advice from the Board on priority actions identified by the CRMG Chair. These priority focus areas will be the primary focus for the **progress monitoring** and **adaptive management** workstreams, along with other actions considered critical to achieving sub-sector targets and the emissions budgets.

To date, the Board's more regular (quarterly) reporting has been on the following priority focus areas:

- the Energy Strategy including the impacts of electricity market reform
- the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (including emissions leakage and forestry incentives)
- He Waka Eke Noa and the Centre for Climate Action on Agricultural Emissions
- climate innovation platforms
- transport mode-shift
- freight and supply chain resilience
- nature-based solutions

- overarching areas of focus for the second emissions reduction plan in 2024, including areas of focus and lessons from the first emissions reduction plan.

Are the expected emissions reductions being delivered and do we need to change course?

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

Progress monitoring will have two parts:

- emissions monitoring (are we getting the changes in emissions we need?)
- implementation monitoring (how are we tracking on committed policy?).

Emissions monitoring will build on the existing monitoring and reporting system for Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions to make reliable data available more quickly.

Are there gaps in our approach, significant barriers or opportunities? Are new economic dynamics accelerating or preventing emissions reductions?

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

- identify threats and opportunities early
- advise on corrective action when not on track
- commission contingency plans to address barriers or seize opportunities and develop policy alternatives
- build capability to work across government at pace (eg, lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response)
- review international best practice
- oversee development of climate innovation platforms and a portfolio of new options.

The goal of this work is to make sure we know when corrective action is needed. The **engagement** workstream will enable the Board to work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify barriers to action and areas where changes in technology or practice could further reduce emissions. The Board will also work with the Māori climate platform's interim Ministerial Advisory Committee. The Ministerial Advisory Committee has a role in designing more enduring partnerships and funding mechanisms for the climate policy response, while also providing future-focused advice across areas of priority for Māori. They are likely to provide a useful engagement point to seek to better understand concerns, opportunities, responses from iwi/Māori.

Performance indicators

Strategic objectives	<p>Build a cross-government understanding and strategic approach that aligns the Government’s overall economic wellbeing strategy with its climate change response.</p>	<p>Support Aotearoa New Zealand to meet our first three emissions budgets by coordinating an all-of-government approach to climate policy.</p>
Impact measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board’s advice and monitoring considers risks and opportunities from the changing economic environment on climate policy. • The Board supports the development of integrated advice on Budget priorities for climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board actively monitors and reports against the emissions reduction plan and emissions budgets through quarterly, six-monthly and annual 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 emissions reduction plan initiatives. • 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)	<p>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.</p>	<p>The impact of emissions reduction activities on abatement are understood and tracked with as little lag as possible.</p>
Long-term outcomes	<p>Climate change and economic policy programmes are mutually reinforcing and support an equitable transition to new areas of economic activity over time.</p>	<p>Aotearoa is able to meet its emissions budgets by adapting our policy approach to address risks and take advantage of new opportunities.</p>

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.



Vicky Robertson, Chairperson of the Board

17 January 2023

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

14 February 2023