



29 May 2025

OIAD-1548

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Lawyers for Climate Action NZ

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails of 3 and 14 April 2025 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) from the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

- All information (including briefings and advice) provided to any Minister for Climate Change on discontinuing any ERP1 policies (including the formal amendment to ERP1 as progressed by Minister Watts); and
- The model that is used in the projections for ERP2, as well as the specific assumptions used in relation to the central estimate and high and low sensitivity analyses for the baseline and the 'with new measures' scenario; and
- An explanation of how the ETS price path in the 'with new measures' scenario was derived; and
- All information (including briefings and advice) provided to the Minister for Climate Change on the Climate Change Commission's Monitoring Report.

I have provided a response to each of your questions below.

Information on discontinuing ERP1 policies, including the formal amendment to ERP1

As noted in our email of 13 May 2025, we are responding to this part of your request as it relates to briefings and advice that the Ministry of the Environment or the Climate Change Interdepartmental Executive Board Unit have provided to any Minister for Climate Change on discontinuing ERP1 actions, including the formal amendment in December 2024.

I have identified 27 briefings, three Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) assessments, 581 public submissions, four meeting packs, three quarterly progress reports, and 13 further documents in scope of this point, as outlined in the document schedule below.

I am releasing three documents to you in full.

I am releasing 22 documents to you in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a) to not prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.
- 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 18(d) as the information is already or will soon be publicly available.

Some of these documents are provided as excerpts where appropriate, as per section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

I am refusing three documents in full under section 18(d) of the Act as the information will be publicly available on the Ministry's website by 30 June 2025, with some information expected to be withheld under sections 6 and/or 9 of the Act.

I am refusing the 581 public submissions and the remaining 22 documents in full under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is already publicly available.

Model and assumptions used in the projections for ERP2

The Government has used the Emissions in New Zealand (ENZ) model in the projections for the second emissions reduction plan (ERP2). This model was developed by Concept Consulting and has gone through many iterations in its development and different iterations are held by different actors for different uses.

I am releasing to you two iterations of the model in full, as discussed with you via email on 13 May 2025:

- The iteration used for the ERP2 Discussion Document in June 2024, comprised of six Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
- The iteration used for the publication of ERP2 in November 2024, comprised of six Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

I am also releasing to you in full a user manual for the model.

Please be advised that these documents are being shared with you in confidence and we request they are not used for commercial purposes or shared publicly. Concept Consulting has advised that the model is commercially sensitive, however we consider that the public interest in the release of this information outweighs the need to withhold it to protect this sensitivity.

Explanation of how the ETS price path was derived

NZ ETS unit and price control settings are updated annually with five-year settings always in place. ERP2 projections "with new measures" included an ETS price path as projected from the 2024 ETS annual updates.

The 2024 ETS settings update considered packages of settings options consisting of combinations of unit limits and price controls. To assist with evaluating the options, market dynamics (including price paths) of different options were projected using the ETS market

model (see ETS market model 2024 and RIS: 2024 update NZ ETS, particularly table 8 and appendix four).

The Government decided to significantly tighten unit settings and retain the existing price control settings, with these regulations put in place by 30 September 2024. The projected price path used to support the decision rose gradually over EB2 to a peak of \$89 in 2030 (in 2023 dollar terms, \$93 in 2024 dollar terms as used in ERP2) before gradually declining thereafter in response to forestry supply becoming the main source of supply in the ETS.

The ERP2 “with new measures” used the 2024 ETS projected price path which underpinned final ETS settings. Using the 2024 ETS price path, the ENZ model used in ERP2 analysis projected the additional impacts owing to 2024 settings updates which has not been counted in impacts “with existing measures that include 2023 ETS settings updates” and the other ERP2 policy impacts (see ERP2 technical annex).

Information on the Climate Change Commission's Monitoring Report.

I have identified six briefings in scope of this point, as outlined in the document schedule below. I am releasing two to you in full and four in part, with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 18(d) as the information is already publicly available.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Amy Tisdall

Manager – Climate Change Interdepartmental Executive Board
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
Information on discontinuing ERP1 policies and the formal amendment to ERP1						
1	28-02-23	BRF-2754	Climate Response Ministerial Group: First six-monthly progress report on the Government's emissions reduction plan	Released in part	9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h), 18(d)	Report: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/First-Six-Monthly-Progress-Report-Jul-22-to-Dec-22.pdf Appendix A: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/First-Six-Monthly-Progress-Report-Jul-22-to-Dec-22-Appendix-A.pdf Appendices B-D: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/First-Six-Monthly-Progress-Report-Jul-22-to-Dec-22-Appendix-B-C-D.pdf
2	11-04-23		Climate Response Ministerial Group – April 2023 meeting pack	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/04-11-CRMG-meeting-pack.pdf
3	31-05-23		Climate Response Ministerial Group – May 2023 meeting pack	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/05-31-CRMG-meeting-pack.pdf
4	31-08-23	BRF-3632	Climate Response Ministerial Group: six-monthly report on the national adaptation and emissions reduction plans, January 2023-June 2023	Refused in full	18(d)	Briefing: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/BRF-3632-Briefing-Note.pdf Appendix 1: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Appendix-1-A3-on-System-wide-risks-and-opportunities.pdf Appendix 2: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Appendix-2-Six-monthly-progress-report-on-the-ERP-and-NAP-for-CRMG-Jan-June-2023.pdf Appendix 3: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Appendix-3-Six-monthly-report-summary-for-public-facing-publication.pdf
5	15-12-23	BRF-3978	Progressing amendments to the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS obligations for agriculture	Released in part	9(2)(h)	
6	26-01-24	BRF-4088	Cover Brief: Cabinet Paper Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS Agricultural Obligations	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
7	01-02-24	BRF-4109	Climate change legislation programme bids	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 16(1)(e)	Provided as an excerpt as per section 16(1)(e) of the Act
8	15-02-24	BRF-4292	Climate Change legislation programme bids 2024 - final approval	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 16(1)(e)	Provided as an excerpt as per section 16(1)(e) of the Act
9	19-02-24	BRF-4249	Climate Change Response Act Amendments: New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme obligations for agriculture	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	
10	23-02-24	BRF-4289	Potential timeframes for Reducing Agricultural Emissions Actions	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv)	
11	28-02-24	BRF-4354	Meeting legal requirements for mitigating distributional impacts in ERP2	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
12	29-02-24	BRF-4325	Slide deck briefing for waste emissions reduction work programme	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/BRF-5059-ERP2-Waste-MfE.pdf Page 70
13	29-02-24	BRF-4311	Draft Cabinet paper – New Zealand's Climate Goals and Obligations	Released in part	6(a), 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)	Some information has been withheld as out of scope.
14	08-03-24	BRF-4368	Cover briefing: Cabinet paper on amending the Climate Change Response Act 2002 to repeal agricultural obligations in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	Released in full		Contextual notes have been added to the document in red text.

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
15	18-03-24		Climate Change Chief Executives Board – Quarterly Progress Report to Climate Priorities Ministerial Group, March 2024	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/March-Quarterly-Progress-Report.pdf
16	20-03-24	BRF-4189	Policy options for provision of household kerbside recycling and food scraps services	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
17	21-03-24	BRF-4319	Second emissions reduction plan – waste sector policy options	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/BRF-5059-ERP2-Waste-MfE.pdf Page 17
18	21-03-24	BRF-4464	Approval to lodge: Amending the Climate Change Response Act 2002 to repeal agricultural obligations in the NZ ETS	Released in part	9(2)(h), 18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Amending-the-CCRA-to-repeal-Ag.pdf
19	27-03-24	BRF-4502	Managing the impacts of policies in the second emissions reduction plan	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/BRF-5034-ERP2-Climate-MfE.pdf Page 142
20	25-03-24		Climate Priorities Ministerial Group – March 2024 meeting pack	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/March-CPMG-meeting-pack.pdf
21	15-05-24	BRF-4613	Cover Briefing: Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill.	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Amending-the-CCRA-to-repeal-Ag.pdf Contextual notes have been added to the document in red text.
22	14-06-24	BRF-4840	Status of the first emissions reduction plan and emissions budget 1	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
23	18-06-24		CIPA Disclosure: Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS agricultural obligations (v1)	Released in full		
24	26-06-24	BRF-4946	ERP2 - Cabinet paper and discussion document - summary of feedback and approval to lodge	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(h), 16(1)(e), 18(d)	Appendix 3: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/BRF-5034-ERP2-Climate-MfE.pdf Appendices 5 & 6: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/New-Zealands-second-emissions-reduction-plan-Discussion-document.pdf Appendix 7: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/New-Zealands-second-emissions-reduction-plan-Technical-annex.pdf Appendix 4 has been provided as an excerpt. Some information has been withheld as out of scope.
25	15-08-24	BRF-5187	Attendance at the Primary Production Committee on the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill – 22 August 2024	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
26	05-09-24		Departmental Report - CCRA Amendment Bill	Released in part	9(2)(a)	
27	19-09-24		581 public submissions on the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill	Refused in full	18(d)	https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/9608f1d1-2216-4292-c788-08dc90c80755?Tab=sub
28	19-09-24		11 documents provided to the Primary Production Committee on the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill	Refused in full	18(d)	https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/9608f1d1-2216-4292-c788-08dc90c80755?Tab=sub

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
29	19-09-24		Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill – Final Report of the Primary Production Committee	Refused in full	18(d)	https://selectcommittees.parliament.nz/v/SelectCommitteeReport/4320365b-4a63-421f-be69-08dcf94925e0
30	26-09-24	BRF-5156	Waste and Fluorinated Gases in the second emissions reduction plan - consultation summary and final policies	Refused in full	18(d)	This briefing will be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website by 30 June 2025.
31	02-10-24	BRF-5025	Amending the first emissions reduction plan	Released in part	9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h), 18(d)	Information in Appendix 4 refused under section 18(d) of the Act will be proactively released by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment by 30 June 2025.
32	10-10-24	BRF-5456	ERP2 - first drafts of your plan and Cabinet paper	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv), 16(1)(e)	Provided as an excerpt. Some information has been withheld as out of scope.
33	16-10-24		Climate Change Chief Executives Board – Quarterly Progress Report to Climate Priorities Ministerial Group, October 2024	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/October-Quarterly-Progress-Report-Full-Report-16-October-2024.pdf
34	29-10-24		CIPA Disclosure: Amendment to the first Emissions Reduction Plan	Refused in full	18(d)	https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/ERP2-Cabinet-paper-proactive-release-pack-final.pdf at Page 15
35	30-10-24	BRF-5538	Approval to lodge the second emissions reduction plan	Released in part	16(1)(e)	Provided as an excerpt. Some information has been withheld as out of scope. Final version of the Cabinet paper is available at: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/ERP2-Cabinet-paper-proactive-release-pack-final.pdf
36	31-10-24	BRF-5476	Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill – Material to support the Second Reading	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix A: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2024/0062/latest/whole.html Appendix C: https://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/bill_ls/ccrtsaoabtrls1094/
37	11-11-24	BRF-5589	Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill – Material to support the Third Reading	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix 2: https://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/bill_ls/ccrtsaoabtrls1094/
38	14-11-24		CIPA Disclosure: Amending the CCRA to repeal NZ ETS agricultural obligations (v2)	Released in full		
39	04-12-24	BRF-5615	ERP2 – finalising the plan	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Briefing and Appendix 1: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/ERP2-Cabinet-paper-proactive-release-pack-final.pdf Page 25 Some information has been withheld as out of scope.
40	17-02-25		Climate Priorities Ministerial Group – February 2025 meeting pack	Refused in full	18(d)	This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry for the Environment's website by 30 June 2025.
41	26-03-25		Climate Change Chief Executives Board – Progress Report on the first Emissions Reduction Plan, March 2025	Refused in full	18(d)	This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry for the Environment's website by 30 June 2025.
42	04-07-24	BRF-4870	Proposed approach for delivering the Government responses to the Climate Change Commission's monitoring reports on emissions reduction and adaptation progress	Released in part	9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)	
43	19-07-24	BRF-4996	Climate Change Commission ERM report	Released in full		

#	Date	Code	Title	Decision	Grounds	Link/Notes
44	06-09-24	BRF-5217	Response to the Climate Change Commission's Emissions Reduction Monitoring Report	Released in part	9(2)(a)	Final version of Appendix 2 can be found at: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/CCCE-Board/Government-response-to-the-Climate-Change-Commission-emissions-reduction-monitoring-report.pdf
45	25-09-24	BRF-5342	Final Cabinet paper and response to the Climate Change Commission's emissions reduction monitoring report	Released in part	9(2)(a), 18(d)	Appendix 1: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/2024-MfE-Response-to-CCC2.pdf
46	10-10-24	BRF-5452	Communications support for the release of the response to the Climate Change Commission's emissions reduction monitoring report	Released in part	18(d)	Appendix 3: https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/CCCE-Board/Government-response-to-the-Climate-Change-Commission-emissions-reduction-monitoring-report.pdf
47	09-12-24	BRF-5690	Environment Committee inquiry into the Government's response to the CCC emissions monitoring report	Released in full		