



5 February 2024

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Dear 9(2)a

Thank you for your email of 17 December 2023 requesting information on statements made by the Minister for Climate Change at COP28, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to your questions below.

As noted in the two Coalition Agreements, there is a requirement for "decisions (to be) based on sound public policy principles, including problem definition, rigorous cost benefit analysis and economic efficiency." Based on those requirements, please provide the evidence of the cost definition, the cost benefits and economic efficiencies to support the Climate Minister's statements at, and following the recent COP28 meeting.

As expressed by the Minister for Climate Change, Hon Simon Watts, in his national statement at COP28, New Zealand has an ambitious first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC1) to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions and the Government remains committed to achieving this. NDC1 will be met by targeting key drivers of emissions, and by working with the private sector to make transformative investments in resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and low emission technologies. The implementation of our NDC1 will be grounded in high quality data, transparency, accountability, and stable pricing signals.

The complete national statement delivered at COP 28 by Minister Watts can be found here: beehive.govt.nz/speech/cop28-national-statement-new-zealand.

As noted in the Coalition Agreements there is a requirement for decisions to be based on "data and evidence, with programmes to be regularly assessed to see if they are delivering results." Please provide the evidence that was used by the Climate Minister to confirm his statements at, and following the recent COP28 meeting.

Minister Watts receives regular and up-to-date advice from the Ministry for the Environment. The Ministry accepts the data, evidence, and global scientific consensus on climate change summarised by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and uses this knowledge to inform policy decision making.

What are the agreed results and outcomes of the Coalition partners with respect to 'climate emissions'? How will the recent statements by the Climate Minister provide the outcomes that have been agreed by the Coalition partners?

As noted in the Coalition Agreements there is a requirement for the “no surprises” principle and inform each other, confidentially and promptly of matters of significance”. Please provide evidence that all parties agreed to the statements made by the Climate Minister.

The Government is committed to achieving all of its Climate commitments, including the revised first NDC and the approach used will be aligned with the interests of all New Zealanders. The coalition agreements note several ways in which we will achieve this, such as doubling of renewable electricity by 2050 and the continued development of electric vehicle infrastructure. These outcomes will be achieved considering the ‘Ongoing Decision-Making Principles’ of the agreements ensuring that a robust cost benefit analysis is done to ensure maximum benefit for government investment. The second ERP, which must be published by December 2024, is another opportunity for the Government to do this.

The recent statements by Minister Watts reflect the principles of the coalition agreement where he has stated collaboration and partnership will be used to innovate, develop and deploy solutions while harnessing our trade and economic cooperation for beneficial climate outcomes.

In the event the outcome of COP28 has produced no definitive outcome, have the Coalition partners agreed that all proposed and existing "interventions that aren't delivering results", will be reviewed. Will the existing 'interventions' be stopped if the result of that review (based on the evidence and economic efficiencies etc), confirm there is no deliverable result or outcome? The Coalition partners have agreed the interventions must be "result driven".

The general consensus is that COP28 has produced positive and progressive outcomes such as the clear agreement to move away from fossil fuels and the establishment of a new, dedicated fund for loss and damage. A resource which outlines the key outcomes can be accessed here: unfccc.int/cop28/5-key-takeaways.

Minister Watts has expressed his positive position on COP28 considering the overall outcome a ‘significant step forward’. More detail on these statements can be viewed here: rnz.co.nz/news/political/504703/cop28-deal-significant-step-forward-climate-change-minister-says.

For a more detailed summary of the progressive achievements at COP28, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have provided a resource which can be accessed here: unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_GCA_COP28.pdf.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website 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.

Yours sincerely

Electronically approved by Dr Alice Cleland

Dr Alice Cleland
Manager – Emissions Insights and Reporting