



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Emissions Reduction Plan: Public Consultation

Portfolio Climate Change

On 23 August 2021, following reference from the Cabinet Business Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the emissions reduction plan must set out the policies and strategies to achieve the emissions reductions and removals needed to meet the first emissions budget (2022-2025), and that it may also include policies and strategies for meeting the second (2026-2030) and third emissions budgets (2031-2035).
- 2 **noted** that on 19 April 2021, the Cabinet Business Committee agreed that the introduction (Part 1) of the emissions reduction plan will form the basis of New Zealand's long-term low emissions development strategy for the purposes of the Paris Agreement, and that the introduction of the plan should be completed and submitted by COP26 [CBC-21-MIN-0044];
- 3 **noted** that the proposed timeframes minimise the ability to update Part I in response to consultation;
- 4 **noted** that officials have already engaged with a number of groups, as a way of seeking early feedback and communicating the process for developing the emissions reduction plan;
- 5 **noted** that the Climate Change Response Act 2002 requires consultation on the emissions reduction plan to be adequate, including with sector representatives, affected communities, Māori and iwi, and for further consultation to be undertaken as the Minister of Climate Change considers necessary;
- 6 **noted** that, to ensure that consultation has been adequate, the package of policies that may be included in the emissions reduction plan will be the subject of consultation, including any new and proposed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- 7 **noted** that when assessing the adequacy of consultation, the Climate Change Commission's consultation and engagement already undertaken on specific policies and strategies that will form part of the emissions reduction plan will also be considered;
- 8 **noted** that:
 - 8.1 Lawyers for Climate Action New Zealand have lodged a judicial review of the Climate Change Commission's final advice to Minister of Climate Change;

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- 9 **noted** that, following consultation, the Minister of Climate Change will seek final policy decisions to enable the emissions reduction plan to be gazetted by 31 December 2021;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister of Climate Change will seek separate Cabinet decisions on New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution for 2021-2030 (NDC1), and on whether to accept the Climate Change Commission's recommended emissions budgets;
- 11 **noted** that the discussion document *Te Hau Mārohi ki Anamata - Transitioning to a Low Emissions and Climate-Resilient Future* (the discussion document), attached to the paper under CAB-21-SUB-0335, signals broad support for the development of an equitable transition strategy;
- 12 **agreed** that the consultation material refer to an equitable transition;
- 13 **agreed** to the release of the discussion document for public consultation, **subject to** paragraph 14 below;
- 14 **authorised** the Prime Minister and Minister of Climate Change to determine the timing of the release of the discussion document, taking into account the current COVID-19 outbreak situation;
- 15 **authorised** the Minister of Climate Change to:
- 15.1 make minor design, editorial and technical changes to the discussion document as needed, prior to its release;
 - 15.2 update relevant parts of the discussion document to reflect in-principle decisions by Cabinet on emissions budgets as required, following agreement with the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for the Environment.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Secretary's Note: In the context of this item, Cabinet also took further decisions on the item on Emissions Budgets for 2022-2025, 2026-2030, and 2031-2035 [ENV-21-SUB-0045]. These decisions are contained in CAB-21-MIN-0320.01.