

6 July 2018

Dear Ministry for the Environment Zero Carbon Bill team

## **A healthy Zero Carbon Act is fast, fair, firm, and founded on Te Tiriti**

I want a Zero Carbon Act that's **fast, fair, firm and founded on Te Tiriti** – with health at its heart.

1. “**Fast**” means our Zero Carbon Act **fixes our NZ net zero target well before 2040** in law (all sectors, all domestic emissions, new forests) to play our part in **confidently limiting average global warming to 1.5°C**.

New Zealand's **domestic emissions** must:

- **drop in 2019 and 2020** - towards global emissions peaking no later than 2020
- **rapidly reduce over the 2020s** (and making up for projected forestry harvesting)

Please enact this Bill as high priority legislation to drive urgent climate action.

2. “**Fair**” means New Zealand's Climate Change Commission considers global fairness, and creates a fairer, just and sustainable Aotearoa-NZ.

“Fair” means:

- NZ does our fair share as a well-resourced, currently (and historically) high-emitting nation, to rapidly reduce our domestic emissions.
- NZ recognises that our Pacific neighbours are in the frontline of climate change, and that Pacific island countries and others have been strongly calling for urgent action to keep global warming below 1.5°
- NZ's Climate Change Commission advises the government of the day on **the best policies for effectively reducing emissions while multi-solving for health and fairness**.

3. “**Firm**” means New Zealanders have science-based, long-term legal certainty to act.

- NZ's Climate Change Commission **decides emissions budgets**, from **up-to-date climate science, global leadership and international fairness**.
- Any government can **choose more ambitious targets and policies for NZ to emit less** - but **all other changes can only be made by changing the Act** through NZ's Parliament.

4. “**Tiriti-founded**” means the Zero Emissions Act is founded on **Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership and values**.

- NZ's Climate Change Commissioner appointments and staffing reflect a partnership founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- The Commission has a well-resourced, influential Tiriti partnership work unit
- Substantial funding of iwi and hapū advocacy capacity for Tiriti-founded climate action

Because the Zero Carbon Act is an essential prescription for New Zealand's health and wellbeing, I call for a Zero Carbon Act that's **fast, fair, firm and founded on Te Tiriti** with **health at its heart**.

I want:

- the Zero Carbon Act to **grow great health co-benefits and health equity** in Aotearoa-NZ
- the Climate Change Commission to include **Commissioners and staff who understand climate change health impacts and opportunities** now, and in future, from well-designed healthy climate action

I want to work with health colleagues to:

- **help our health sector quickly reach net zero emissions**

and I expect:

- **savings** from reduced health sector emissions **devoted to better health-care**.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Lange