



Special Officer Climate Change and Environment Report UNANZ National Council Meeting, 9-10 November 2019

This report has the latest update on New Zealand's progress on climate change and environment.

- **Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill**

The Zero Carbon Bill is now being considered by the Environment Select Committee. The submission process closed on 6 July 2019 receiving more 15, 000 submissions from New Zealanders and organizations. If passed into legislation, it will provide a framework to develop and implement sound climate change policies that contribute to reach the goals agreed under the Paris Agreement objective to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°Celsius by 2050.

Late 2019, early 2020 should be expecting amendments to the Climate Change Response Act progress through Parliament.

- **Climate Change Commission progress**

Nominations for the independent Climate Change Commission closed at midnight on Sunday 28 July. The nominations are for seven Commissioners, including a Chair and Deputy Chair. Collectively, these people are required to have strong understandings of climate change policy and what it takes to create a just transition, expertise related to key sectors of the economy, and commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Also, the Government will release two key reports, one on agriculture and one on renewable energy generation, directly to the Minister of Climate Change. The reports will be available on the ICCC website once they have been released.

- **School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C)**

Initiated by Greta Thunberg in Sweden, this global movement has been organized by students aged 8-18 united by their concern for global warming. In New Zealand, three strikes have taken place on March 15, May 24 and September 27, in more than 20 towns and cities around the country. The school strikes have gathered momentum around the world, in the wake of an alarming IPCC report calling for urgent action on climate change. Sophie Handford has led the SS4C movement in New Zealand.

- **NZ Emission Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)**

The government has made decisions to improve the NZ ETS. Such decisions will be part of an amendment bill to the Climate Change Response Act which is expected to be introduced to the Parliament later this year.

In response to the recommendations from the Interim Climate Change Committee, the government consulted on options to reduce agricultural emissions and how could these be best arranged if agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions enter into the NZ ETS.

There will be further consultations in late 2019 for technical aspects and unit supply volumes that will set a cap on the NZ ETS.

- **Framework National Climate Change Risk Assessment Panel Appointed**

In April 2019, the Minister for Climate Change, James Shaw, announced the details of a new panel that has been established to create the framework for New Zealand's first National Climate Change Risk Assessment. The framework will provide the foundation to compare different types of climate risks.

The nine members of the expert panel come from a range of backgrounds, including research, engineering, and the public sector. Panel members have expertise in climate change risk and risk assessments, vulnerability assessments, and risk in the context of Te Ao Māori. The panel will be chaired by Dr Anne Bardsley.

- **Environment Aotearoa report**

In April, the Ministry for the Environment released the Environment Aotearoa 2019 report. Theme 5 of the report focuses on those activities in New Zealand which are contributing to global increases in GHG and how this is already affecting our environment and the way we live now and into the future.

- **Latest on the NZ's 2020 net position**

The latest update indicates that New Zealand is projected to meet its unconditional 2020 emissions reduction target with a surplus of 96.8 units. To reach the target, NZ will need to hold units at least equivalent to the gross emissions during the period 2013-2020.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade chief executive Chris Seed has announced the appointment of Kay Harrison to the role of Climate Change Ambassador. She replaces Jo Tyndall.

- **Guide for NZ organisations track their greenhouse gas emissions**

On 2 May 2019, the MfE released the Measuring Emissions Guide. This guide explains how to produce an inventory, provides the latest emission factors for common sources of emissions in New Zealand, enables organisations to calculate their emissions and provides examples to show what an emissions inventory and emissions report looks like.

- **Toitū te Ao- Sustainability Week**

Toitū te Ao- Sustainability Week took place in Wellington between 9-13 September at Victoria University of Wellington. These series of events allow to learn more about recent discoveries and innovative ideas towards improving the social, environmental, and economic well being of the world around us. Sustainability week featured guest speakers such as Rt Hon. Helen Clark and School Strike 4 Climate national coordinator Sophie Handford.

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