



Toolkit for visiting your Electorate MP

Why do we need to?

Electorate Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to represent the people and visions of their communities. Let's show our Electorate MPs that those of us from *all corners of Aotearoa NZ, whether we be in the city or in rural areas, whether we be young or old, care* about having a planet to pass on to the next generation. We have a vision of climate justice; where through protecting the planet, we look after our people and we develop a more sustainable Aotearoa.

This is where YOU come in!

Imagine if people all across Aotearoa were *knocking on the doors of their MPs office* with the same message that now is the time to act on the climate crisis...

Now, our MPs must recognise that this moment in time is so significant. They must recognise that their communities want them to take their responsibility to the next generation seriously by being on the right side of history.

Join Us!

We've included information below which you might find useful on your quest to knock on the door of your Electorate MPs office... but *the message is simple. Climate justice now* for the sake of our collective home and the generations to come. Everything is at stake.

Background Information

What is an Electorate?

An electorate or electoral district (Māori: rohe pōti), or informally, a seat, is a geographical area used for electing members (MPs) to the New Zealand Parliament. The size of electorates across Aotearoa are determined such that all electorates have approximately the same population.

There are 72 electorates in NZ, with 65 of them being general electorates and seven being Māori electorates.

What is an Electorate MP?

An electorate MP (Member of Parliament) is someone who has been elected to the NZ Parliament by the voters in the geographical area which makes up the electorate.

Find out who your Electorate Member of Parliament is:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_electorates#General_electorates
- Click on the link above, scroll down to the section titled "Electorates in the 53rd Parliament". Not sure which Electorate you're in? No worries! Follow this link: <https://vote.nz/maps/2020-general-election-electorates/>
- Once you've found the name of your Electorate MP, you should be able to find their office address by either searching their name on Google or Facebook. If not, you could email them (emails can be found on the website of the Party they're representing in Parliament or you could send them a Facebook message.)
- As Parliament has lots of new MPs due to the recent election, some Electorate MPs won't have offices set up yet. Sending them an email, as a constituent from their electorate, is also a really valid and valued way to get the message across. Even a short email gets the issue in-front of them and lets them know that climate change is an issue their community is concerned about.

What you could say when you knock on the door of their office...

- ***Below is an example of what you could say when knocking on the door of your electorate MPs office:***
- Kia ora, my name is _____ and I'm from _____. I'm aware that we can visit our MPs electorate office to raise issues we care about or are seeing play out in our own lives or in our community. Climate change is an issue affecting people and our planet right now. It's beginning to threaten young people's right to a livable future. Time is running out and many people across Aotearoa are beginning to lose hope. Right now, we have one of the most incredible opportunities of all time to actually save the entire world for the next generation, but only if our leaders wake up and truly embrace the vision of climate justice which is being presented to them by thousands of people across Aotearoa, through the demands of the Climate Strikes, through Pacific Climate Warriors events, through Te Ara Whatu mobilising. I would like to please either arrange to meet with my MP or for you to assure me that you'll pass this on to them.

Here is a template email to support you in reaching out to your local MP...

- Kia ora, my name is **insert name here** and I am a constituent in your electorate. **add some information about yourself**. I am writing to you today to express my concerns about the climate crisis and our failure to act with the urgency needed. We have seen 170,000 people from all corners of Aotearoa, people of all ages and backgrounds, take to the streets to demand climate justice. This presence on the streets was backed up by a clear list of demands to you and your colleagues, as our country's leaders. Many of us across the country are scared. We fear what kind of future we will be inheriting and then passing on to the next generation. Right now, we are at a crucial moment in time. We have eight years to halve global emissions to be in with a chance of remaining below 1.5 degrees of global warming above preindustrial levels. With this short amount of time, comes huge responsibility but also huge opportunity. I acknowledge that as a member of our team of 5 million here in NZ, I personally have a role to play and can have a positive impact by making decisions in my own personal life. You have a role to play in enabling and supporting people to be able to easily make these changes in their lives. You have a role to create a vision for a zero carbon Aotearoa, a country which is regenerative, sustainable and centers climate justice in all of its decisions. A country which fulfills its obligations to our Pacific Island neighbours. I would like to help you do this, by offering my knowledge, ideas and being a part of creating the social mandate for you to act on this now. Please let me know when would be a good time for me to come into your electorate office to discuss this. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Nga mihi nui, **insert name here**

Links to useful information:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

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