



Dr Rod Carr
Chair of the Climate Change Commission

By email: Roderick.Carr@climatecommission.govt.nz

20 April 2020

Dear Rod,

Further to my letter of 18 February and subsequent conversations with you, I am writing to confirm my request for advice and to provide the terms of reference.

ADVICE ON BIOGENIC METHANE

First, I request advice from the Commission regarding New Zealand's biogenic methane emissions.

I make this request under Section 5K of the Climate Change Response Act (the Act), which provides for the Climate Change Minister to request advice of the Commission on matters relating to climate change.

The purpose of the advice for biogenic methane is to inform New Zealand's understanding of the potential reductions in biogenic methane emissions which might eventually be required by New Zealand as part of a global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

ADVICE ON NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Second, I request a review of New Zealand's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period 2021 to 2030. The review should assess if the NDC should be revised to make it consistent with the global 1.5°C temperature goal.

I also make this request under Section 5K of the Act.

I consider a review necessary to ensure consistency between the NDC and the more recent temperature and emissions reductions goals in the Act after its amendment in 2019; and because the science has evolved considerably since the NDC was lodged in 2016 (in particular, the IPCC's 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C). Under the Paris Agreement, New Zealand has committed to update its first NDC this year.

I had hoped to be in a position to ask the Commission to review the NDC prior to doing so. However, due to delays in the passage of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon Amendment) Bill and the establishment of the Commission, this was not possible.

I will take the opportunity of the update to our NDC in 2020 to inform the UNFCCC that, following advice from the Commission, we may revise New Zealand's NDC. I would like the Commission to provide advice and recommendations both on whether the NDC should change to bring it in line with the global 1.5°C temperature goal and, if so, how.

NEXT STEPS

I would like to receive your advice on both of these requests alongside your advice on the first three emissions budgets.

Following consultation with you on these requests for advice under section 5K(2) of the Act, I have finalised the terms of reference for this work. The terms of reference are attached to this letter, and I expect you to make them publicly available in accordance with section 5K(3)(a) of the Act.

I am aware that the Commission already has a significant work programme ahead, particularly with the preparation of advice on the first three emissions budgets. We will continue to discuss how the Commission is able to deliver these requests alongside its existing work programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon. James Shaw
Minister of Climate Change