

Climate Change Commission - Position Statement ahead of 2020 election

Our job is to provide independent evidence-based advice to successive governments on how Aotearoa can achieve its climate goals.

Establishing the Climate Change Commission as an independent body dedicated to identifying the pathways and actions needed to meet our climate targets is a commitment by Aotearoa to take timely and decisive action to address climate change.

The need for climate action to achieve our vision of a thriving, climate-resilient, low emissions future is widely understood. Ahead of the 2020 election, we expect to see all political parties propose ways to support this.

This would include smart and credible policy that focuses on climate change by encouraging low-emissions practices, technologies and infrastructure that are adaptive and resilient to changing climate risks.

We welcome any commitments by the Government, political parties, local government, and the private sector that assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a thriving, climate-resilient, low emissions Aotearoa.

The Commission has developed six principles to use when making decisions on economic recovery that will also keep New Zealand on track to achieve our climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

These principles align with our responsibility under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 to consider economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts when making recommendations or producing advice.

The principles also provide a framework for assessing policy or investment decisions to ensure they are not detrimental to the climate, do not stop us from meeting our climate targets and adaptation goals, and do not pass the hard work on to future generations.

The six principles are:

1. Consider how investments can deliver long-term climate benefits
2. Bring forward transformational climate change investments that need to happen anyway
3. Prepare our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow
4. Work in partnership
5. Maintain incentives to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
6. Change how we measure the success of economic recovery to include progress toward an inclusive, low-emissions and climate-resilient future.

[More detail on our principles and how they can be used is here.](#)

When developing or assessing policy or investment decisions ahead of this coming election, we encourage all parties to consider these principles, and we invite all New Zealanders to assess any commitments made by political parties through a climate action lens.

What we plan for and build now is what we have in the future. We look forward to seeing policy announcements that will establish a sustainable and resilient economy and ensure New Zealanders are better off now and for generations to come.

The Commission will be consulting on its first package of advice to Government on the transition to a low emission future early next year.