

Climate Change Commission

Media Kit August 2020

Overview

The Climate Change Commission was established under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act in 2019.

We deal in the facts about climate change and it's our intent to create positive change for Aotearoa and the world.

We provide independent, evidence-based advice to government to help Aotearoa transition to a low emissions and climate-resilient future. We do this through research and analysis on different factors that can affect our emissions. We also monitor and review the Government's progress towards our emissions reduction and adaptation goals.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Climate Change Commission a government agency?

No. We are an independent Crown entity established under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act. Our Commissioners were announced by the Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw, on 17 December 2019. Being an independent Crown entity we can provide impartial advice, challenge and hold successive governments to account for action on climate change.

What is the Commission currently working on?

We are currently collating our first package of advice to Government. This includes four pieces of work that will provide guidance on how Aotearoa can transition to a low-emissions economy

These are:

- Final report on the first three emissions budgets
- An emissions reduction plan
- Advice on what potential reductions in biogenic methane might be needed in the future
- A review of Aotearoa's first Nationally Determined Contribution

What is the purpose of the advice?

The purpose of the advice is to guide the Government on plans and policies that will drive individuals and organisations to reduce their emissions. It's the Government's role to then decide what further policies are needed - and to implement them.

When is the advice due?

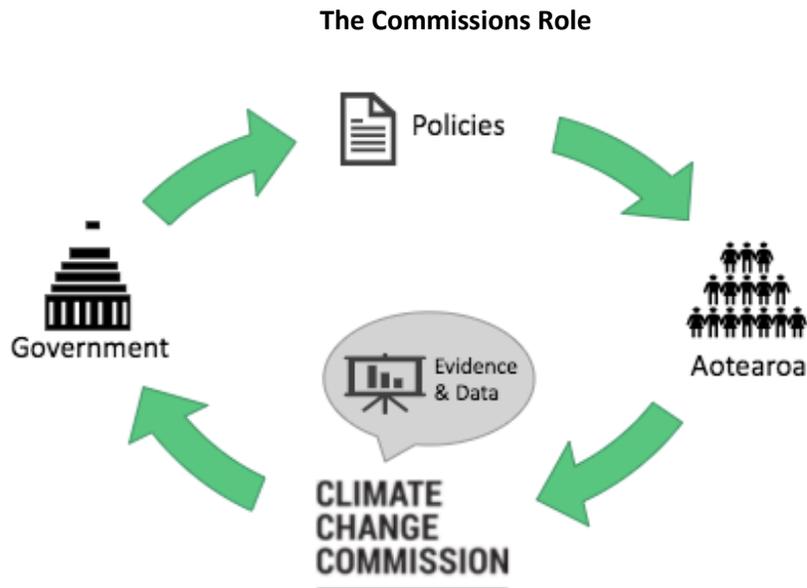
The Climate Change Commission's first package of work will be provided to the Minister for Climate Change on 31 May 2021. The advice was due on 1 February 2021 but the impact of Covid-19 had to be factored into the Commission's work programme. The extension will ensure our analysis, engagement and consultation is completed to a high standard.

Does the government have to take your advice?

The Zero Carbon Act states our advice must be responded to. The government do not have to accept all our advice but must outline what alternative measures will be taken in place of the advice.

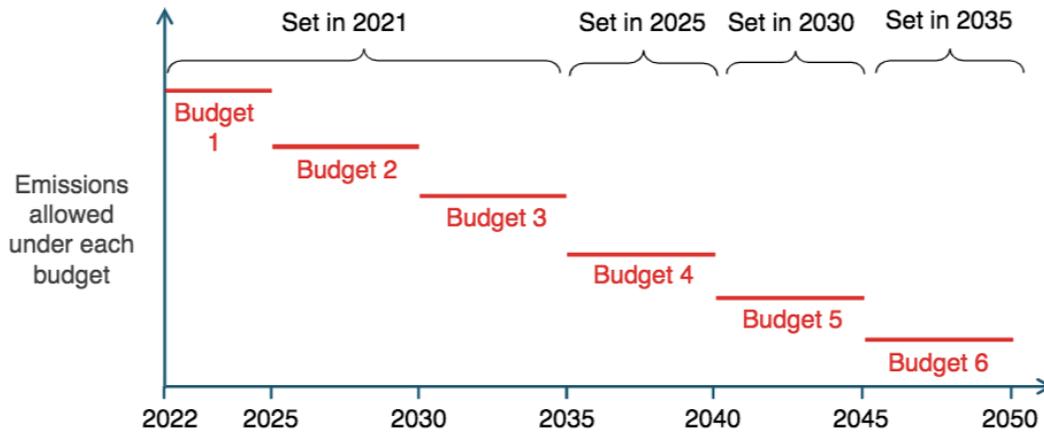
What affect will the Commission's advice have on New Zealanders?

If the advice is taken on by the Government, there may be policy changes or regulations introduced that sets New Zealand on a path to lower emissions in alignment with our international agreements.



- The Commission is required to advise on mitigation or reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- The Commission's role is to advise on what the first three emissions budgets should be and the kinds of policies the Government of the day will need to implement to meet those budgets.
- The motivation for the Zero Carbon Bill and setting up an independent Climate Change Commission was to add stability, transparency, and predictability to our climate response.

Emissions Budgets



- An emissions budget is the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted in a 5-year period. The idea is that each subsequent budget gets smaller to step New Zealand down to meet the 2050 target.
- The first three budgets – out to 2035 – will be set by the Government by end of next year. After that, the Government will set emissions budgets 10 years in advance. This will help increase predictability around future policy. And with budgets set out into the future, business and investors can see a clear indication of the trajectory

Mitigation and Adaptation



These tasks inter-relate, so each task would inform the others

- The Minister can also ask the Commission to provide advice on other matters. We have received a request from the Minister to provide some specific advice on biogenic methane and on New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.