



OIA Ref: 2021-028

Not released to protect the privacy of an individual

2 June 2021

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I am writing in response to your official information request dated 20 May 2021 for:

“any papers completed by the climate change commission which explain / summarise why we think human activity contributes to warmer temperatures. Any thinking which identifies the counterfactual, i.e. Com is not a material contributor to temperature rises, and why this is not the preferred view would be appreciated. Also pointers to any particularly important / influential papers generated offshore would be much appreciated as well.”

The Commission has not written any papers dedicated to examining or summarising the causes of climate change. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act.

That said, we recently commissioned an independent overview of current scientific understanding of the emissions reductions needed to achieve the global temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. This paper is available at: <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/sharing-our-thinking/climate-science-considerations-of-global-mitigation-pathways-and-implications-for-aotearoa/>.

A key part of the establishment of scientific knowledge and any scientific consensus is the continual testing and refining of hypotheses and theories with new data and information. Indeed, this is a key strength of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) process, where conclusions are continually updated as new evidence is reviewed and incorporated, and the scientific uncertainty around the conclusions is refined accordingly.

The consensus of the world’s climate scientists is that the earth is warming and humans are primarily responsible. It is this scientific consensus that the Climate Change Commission will draw upon in its work. For a range of statements of that scientific agreement, see <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>.

Regarding individual papers, I would again point you to the work of the IPCC as the primary source, for example the chapters and technical summaries associated with Assessment Report 5 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ANunns', with a stylized flourish.

Astrid Nunns

**General Manager Strategy, Planning and Engagement
Climate Change Commission**

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT