

19-D-02233

Virginia Crawford  
fyi-request-11328-bbfff4e4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Virginia Crawford

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Could you please let me know the dollar value of New Zealand's financial commitment in relation to the Paris Agreement?*

*A recent news New Zealand website mentioned (via FIA response) that it would be \$1.4 billion per annum over 10 years (commencing 2020). This was apparently going to be a contribution to other countries signed up to the agreement.*

*(1) Could you please confirm or clarify this?*

*(2) How does New Zealand plan to fund this commitment?*

The Ministry for the Environment has identified four documents in scope of your request, detailed in the attached document schedule. These documents relate to the cost of New Zealand's emissions reduction target under its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The documents are available online. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act – the information requested is publicly available.

The documents note that the Paris Agreement itself will not impose any new or additional economic costs on New Zealand. Rather, it is the domestic measures taken to achieve New Zealand's climate change goals, including our NDC under the Paris Agreement, which will impose short-and-medium-term economic costs on New Zealand.

The Government commissioned macroeconomic modelling for 2015 to understand the economic costs of New Zealand's first NDC. In technical terms, New Zealand's NDC target to reduce emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 could reduce Real Gross National Disposable Income between 0.5 and 1.2 per cent per annum – or between \$1.4 billion and \$3.6 billion annually.


These economic costs are not a given, however – they reflect a scenario in which no other countries take action on climate change, and a range of other modelling assumptions about: New Zealand's future domestic climate change policies; New Zealand's access to international emissions reductions; the development of, and access to, low-carbon technologies; and the rules governing mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement. In addition, the modelling does not recognise the cost of inaction on climate change.

The Government is currently considering what policies are needed to achieve New Zealand's climate change goals and to transition the country to a low emissions, climate resilient economy. In particular, the Ministry for the Environment is working with other government agencies to progress the majority of the Productivity Commission's recommendations on how New Zealand can reduce emissions while continuing to grow incomes and wellbeing. You can find out more about this work on the Ministry for the Environment's website: [www.mfe.govt.nz/productivity-commission-report-government-response](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/productivity-commission-report-government-response).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our website on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please contact our Executive Relations team at [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Lincoln', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

**Roger Lincoln**  
Director, Climate Change

### Document schedule

	Document date	Document	Publicly available here:
1	August 2016	National Interest Analysis: The Paris Agreement	<a href="http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/51DBHOH_PAP69732_1/b3d874584455ca4c02251f71995b03d6f0ae42">www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/51DBHOH_PAP69732_1/b3d874584455ca4c02251f71995b03d6f0ae42</a> .
2	May 2015	Landcare Research: Modelling the Economic Impact of New Zealand's Post-2020 Climate Change Contribution	<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/modelling-economic-impact-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate-change">www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/modelling-economic-impact-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate-change</a>
3	May 2015	Infometrics: A General Equilibrium Analysis for New Zealand's Post-2020 Climate Change Contribution	<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/general-equilibrium-analysis-options-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate">www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/general-equilibrium-analysis-options-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate</a>
4	May 2015	Discussion Document on New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement	<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/climate-change-consultation-document.pdf">www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/climate-change-consultation-document.pdf</a>

