

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change
Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



OIA475

Chuck Schooner

By email: fyi-request-18137-1a97927f@requests.fyi.org.nz

14 March 2022

Dear Chuck,

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“As Minister of Climate Change and following the release of the recommendations from Ināia tonu nei advice report can you please provide any and all documents/reports that have been completed in conjunction with these recommendations and the impact these will have on National Security - notably issues associated with the following

- *An electric grid on a country with a fault-line*
- *Food security issues as productive land is planted out*
- *Costs on the average Kiwi per head and the expectant number of people the recommendations are likely to put into poverty notably impact on lower socio economic communities and Māori*
- *Resilience in natural disasters*
- *Impact on health*
- *Defence and security issues*
- *Reduction in resources*
- *Costs to the National Debt and the ability for New Zealand to remain a sovereign country - Impact of electrical infrastructure and the natural environment*
- *Impact of solar and wind generation on animals*

Ultimately any and all reporting completed that outlines the impact on these recommendations on National Security and if we could actually function if these recommendations were put in place.

If this information is not available then when will it be completed - what will the unintended consequences be”.

On 10 February 2022, you were advised of the need to extend the timeframe for responding to your request until 14 March 2022, under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

You also made a subsequent request for the *“Impact of policy on the NZ primary sector and costs of production, impact on GDP etc”*. Please note, this was logged as a separate request and will be responded to within due course.

After considering your request of 10 January, I am interpreting the scope as seeking all advice prepared by the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) to the Minister of Climate Change about any potential impacts from the Climate Change Commission's recommendations (if implemented) on New Zealand's national security.

For the purposes of this response, I am using the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC) definition of national security: the protection against threats, or potential threats, that may cause serious harm to the safety or quality of life of the New Zealand population.

You can read DPMC's full definition of national security on their website, at: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security-and-intelligence/intelligence-and-security-act-2017/defining-national-security>.

As you know, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) published an independent package of advice called "*Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa*" which discussed:

- the first three emissions budgets
- policy direction for the Government's first emissions reduction plan, to meet New Zealand's first emissions budget
- New Zealand's 2030 nationally determined contribution
- eventual reductions required for biogenic methane needed for New Zealand to contribute to limiting global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

It is important to note that the CCC recommendations are provided independently, and the Government can choose whether or not to accept its recommendations when developing New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan.

The emissions reduction plan will set policies and strategies for meeting the first emissions Budget (2022-2025) and will set the direction for climate action for the next 15 years. It is expected to be published in May 2022.

Once published, the Ministry intends to proactively release a number of additional documents on its website, such as Cabinet papers and Regulatory Impact Assessments relating to the emissions reduction plan. I encourage you to check the Ministry's website for this information once it is available.

Note, within the emissions reduction plan and related documents, there will be information on the non-climate impacts of proposed measures and how negative impacts can be mitigated.

Given DPMC's definition of national security highlighted above, my office considers there are no documents within scope of your request. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act, because the information requested does not exist.

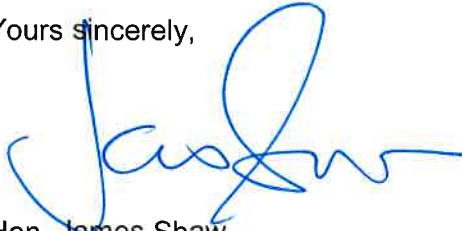
There are, however, other documents available online which may be of interest to you. These documents, and the relevant weblinks, are provided below:

- Emissions reduction plan discussion document: Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future:
<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/emissions-reduction-plan-discussion-document/>.
- Associated Cabinet paper: Emissions reduction plan: Public consultation:
<https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/emissions-reduction-plan-public-consultation/>.
- Cabinet paper: Emissions Budgets for 2022-2025, 2026-2030 and 2031-2035:
<https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/emissions-budgets-for-2022-2025-2026-2030-and-2031-2035/>.

In the meantime, you may wish to engage with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), as the agency leading the work on assessing distributional impacts of the transition. This work aims to drive a well-signalled and inclusive transition, which maximises opportunities and minimises disruption and inequities. Ways to get in touch with MBIE are listed on their website, at: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/contact-us/>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change