

Weekly update - Minister for Climate Change

Finalised on 14 December for the week commencing 18 December

Upcoming meetings

- 19 December:** 8 am Zero Carbon Act stakeholder breakfast at MfE
- 21 December:** 3 pm State Services Commissioner Peter Hughes on the Climate Change Committee and CE's Board

1. Material for you to be aware of this week

1.1. s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

1.2. Meeting with Generation Zero about Zero Carbon Bill

Ministry for the Environment officials met with Generation Zero on Tuesday 12 December 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to seek Generation Zero's views on a Zero Carbon Bill, emissions reduction targets, and communications and engagement. We intend to continue to engage with Generation Zero through the policy development process. A further workshop between officials and Generation Zero is planned for January 2018.

1.3. s9(2)(f)(iv)

1.4. Two signed NZ Gazette notices published

Two NZ Gazette notices that you recently signed have been published:

- The first, published 30 November, notified a change in the composition of Forestry Emission Unit Trust Board
- The second, published 13 December, was a call for electricity related data from the New Zealand Aluminium Smelter.

1.5. Twelve jurisdictions launch the 'Carbon Pricing in the Americas' Declaration

At the 'One Planet Summit' in Paris, on 12 December twelve national and sub-national governments from the Americas launched a 'Carbon Pricing in the Americas' Declaration. The declaration commits these governments to:

- implement carbon pricing as a central climate policy;
- apply a cost of carbon to guide public investments;
- create a platform working to align and promote their carbon markets;
- collaborate to strengthen emissions auditing;
- explore developing common standards in international carbon markets; and
- strengthen regional and international collaboration.

The signatory governments are (sub-nationals in italics):

Canada	Colombia	Chile	Costa Rica
Mexico	<i>Alberta</i>	<i>British Colombia</i>	<i>California</i>
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	<i>Ontario</i>	<i>Quebec</i>	<i>Washington</i>

This declaration is positive for efforts to build environmental integrity in international carbon markets developed under the Paris Agreement. While these jurisdictions are at different stages of developing carbon pricing instruments, the group includes ones with existing high-integrity markets (i.e. the Western Climate Initiative cap-and-trade market of California, Ontario and Quebec); and governments who have publicly committed to ensuring environmental integrity in international market mechanisms such as Canada, Colombia, Chile and Mexico.

New Zealand has recently launched trade-negotiations with the Pacific Alliance trade-bloc; Chile, Colombia, and Mexico are three of the four members of this bloc. As you are aware, Minister Parker is developing a New Progressive and Inclusive Trade Agenda (NPITA) to guide New Zealand's engagement in future negotiations of free trade agreements (FTAs). A key principle for the NPITA will be for FTAs to address global issues, and in particular climate change. This is of particular interest in the context of these Pacific Alliance countries, given our mutual interests in free-trade and the environmental integrity of carbon markets.

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

1.6. One Planet Summit

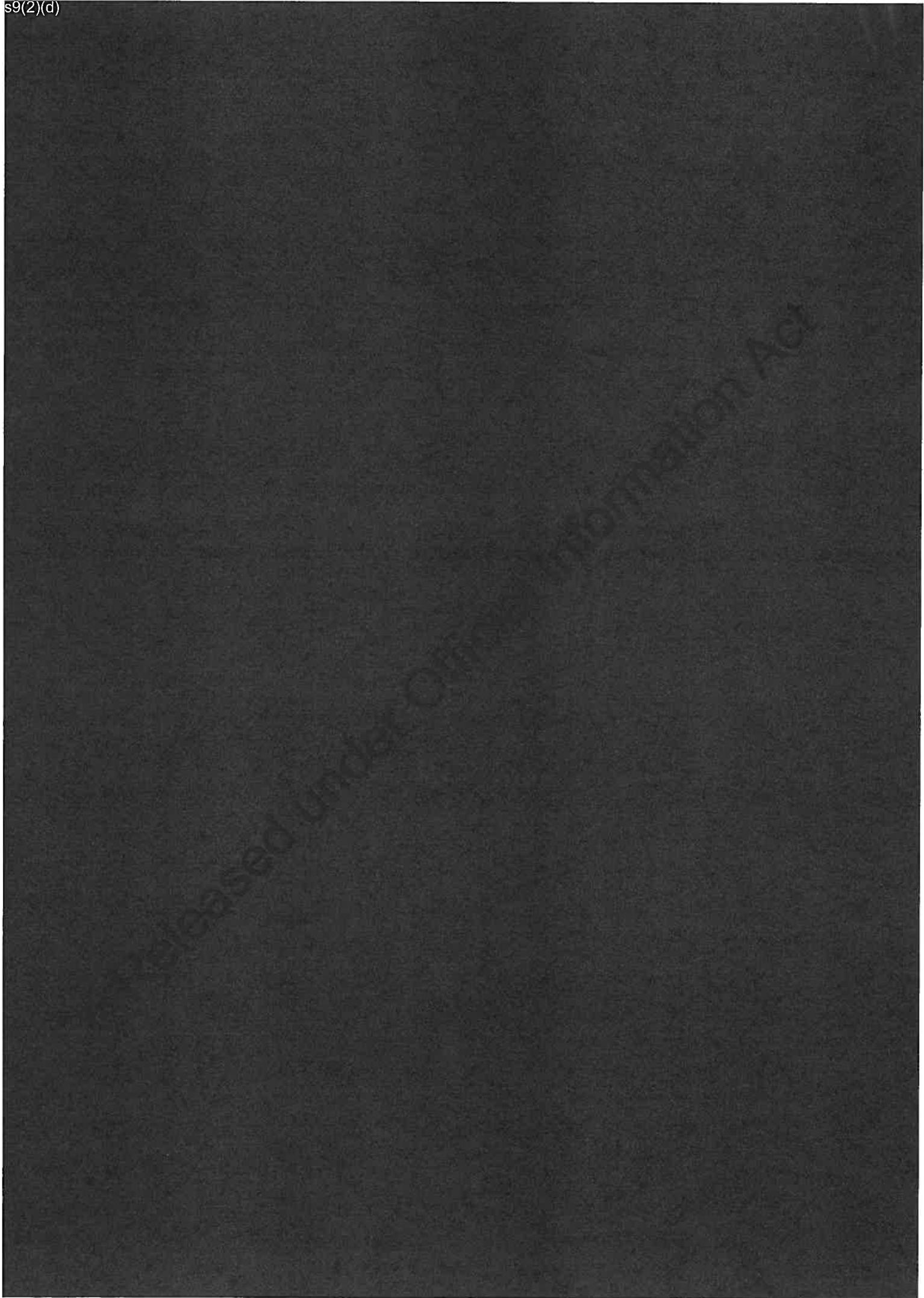
At the One Planet Summit in Paris on 12 December, New Zealand joined the French-led Carbon Neutrality Coalition (jointly announced by Marshall Islands and Sweden). The Declaration, published at the Summit, commits Coalition members to developing long-term low-greenhouse gases emission climate-resilient development strategies well ahead of the 2020 date envisaged by the Paris Agreement. The Declaration's goal is consistent with the Government's wish to be a world leader on climate change, including by becoming a net zero emissions economy by 2050. Other members of the Coalition are: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Marshall Is, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. New Zealand will champion the Coalition at future Ministerial events.

Overall, the Summit saw good high-level turnout (with more than 50 Heads of State and high-profile attendees including Gov Jerry Brown, Mike Bloomberg, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and John Kerry s6(a) and huge media interest. New Zealand was represented by Ambassador to France, Jane Coombs. President Macron's touch was tangible, with youth participation and an interactive format. s6(a) President Macron's leadership engendered strong momentum, with a raft of new commitments launched. In addition to the Carbon Neutrality Coalition mentioned above, the New Zealand Superannuation Fund also joined an initiative of Sovereign Wealth Funds to accelerate efforts to integrate financial risks and opportunities related to climate change in long-term asset pools. The EU announced a raft of investments – in sustainable cities, sustainable energy and connectivity, and sustainable agriculture – collectively expected to generate up to €9 billion in investments by 2020.

2. Upcoming briefings Monday 18 December – Friday 26 January

Dates	Issue or event	Lead	Further information
20 December	COP23 New Zealand Precision Agriculture Event: Report and Proposed Next Steps	MFAT	
22 December	s9(2)(f)(iv)	MfE	s9(2)(f)(iv)
22 December	CC Portfolio – plan for early 2018	MfE	Decisions and next steps in progressing the Zero Carbon Act and Climate Change Commission (Feb Cabinet paper etc)
22 December	s9(2)(f)(iv)	MfE	

[BUDGET SENSITIVE & COMMERCIAL IN-CONFIDENCE]



4. Engagement

4.1. Key issues in the media and social media

- The NZ Super Fund has joined a global investors' initiative 'Climate Action 100 plus' aimed at accelerating the transition

The campaign was launched at the 'One Planet' summit in France. It seeks to engage with the world's largest emitters to improve climate governance, curb emissions and strengthen climate-related financial disclosures.

Released under Official Information Act

5. OIA requests

5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due at your office/current status	Date due to send
<p>Advice to Cabinet and decisions made by Ministers in respect of this policy; [Crown Conservation Contracts on any Crown land]</p>	§9(2)(a)	17-O-01288	<p>This was provided to your office on 13 December, following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition (via Cabinet Office). This was provided to the previous Minister on 3 October.</p>	Overdue: 10 October
<p>A copy of the interim report from the Climate Change Technical Advisory Group, which has been provided to the office of the Minister for Climate Change.</p> <p>The report is referred to in the group's terms of reference, here: http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/what-government-doing/adapting-climate-change/climate-change-adaptation-technical I understand from correspondence with the former minister's office the report had been received in May.</p>	§9(2)(a)	17-O-01361	<p>The requestor was informed of the outcome of this OIA on time.</p>	Sent
<p>What action will the Minister will take on Climate change will a temperature of at least 8.7 above the 1750 baseline https://guympherson.com/2016/08/the-politics-and-science-of-our-demise</p>	§9(2)(a)	17-O-01369	<p>This was provided to your office on the 29 November.</p>	6 December

<p>Cabinet material captured by the following request: Please provide any discussions, emails, correspondence, memos, meeting notes, phone records, and reports relating to the timing for public release of the draft report "Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: Guidance for Local Government" 3rd edition.</p>	<p>s9(2)(a)</p>	<p>17-O-01346</p>	<p>This OIA was one of the few carried across from the previous administration. On 4 December, this request was withdrawn. Following this, requestor got in touch on 6 December noting that she had mistakenly withdrawn this OIA. As there are no provisions under the act with undo a withdrawal administratively we are treating this as a new Departmental OIA, and are progressing it through sign out as swiftly as possible to assist the requestor to meet her pre-Christmas deadlines. We met with your office staff on 14 December to give them an overview of the material which will be released as part of this new OIA. It is our intention to provide the OIA in full to the requestor the week commencing 18 December.</p>	<p>Withdrawn</p>
<p>Can you please supply the total costs to the NZ economy, per year until 2030, for all the climate change policies introduced by the new Government.</p>	<p>s9(2)(a)</p>	<p>17-O-01637</p>	<p>Receipt of this OIA was delayed in your office. We are working with your office to deliver it as soon as possible.</p>	<p>15 December</p>
<p>I request a list of all reports, briefings, memos or aide memoires that you have received since you were sworn in as Minister for Climate Change. Where information is withheld, I request you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19(a)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act.</p>	<p>s9(2)(a)</p>	<p>17-O-01498</p>	<p>This OIA was provided to your office on 12 December.</p>	<p>18 December</p>
<p>According to your answer to Parliamentary Written Question 7893, you received a briefing named "Weekly update – Minister for Climate Change" on 3 November, and another on 9 November. I would like to request copies of both those briefings under the OIA.</p>	<p>Alex Harris via fy.com</p>	<p>17-O-01635</p>	<p>Receipt of this OIA was delayed in your office. We are working with your office to deliver it as soon as possible.</p>	<p>16 January</p>

[COMMERCIAL IN-CONFIDENCE]

5.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Date due to send
Please provide any discussions, emails, correspondence, memos, meeting notes, phone records, and reports relating to the timing for public release of the draft report "Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: Guidance for Local Government" 3rd edition.	s9(2)(a)	17-D-01291	Withdrawn
[Transferred from the Treasury] Can Treasury please release the following information: All work done to quantify the costs, in dollar terms or otherwise, of New Zealand's commitment to meet its Paris Agreement goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The time period of my request is from October 5 2016, when New Zealand ratified the Paris Agreement, to today's date	s9(2)(a)	17-D-01577	22 January
Any information and/or research and/or briefings to Ministers regarding the retreat of glaciers in New Zealand as a result of Climate Change. Any information regarding how the retreat of glaciers is impacting businesses and any concerns from businesses regarding this.	s9(2)(a)	17-D-01602	25 January
Please provide any discussions, emails, correspondence, memos, meeting notes, phone records, and reports relating to the timing for public release of the draft report "Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: Guidance for Local Government" 3rd edition.	s9(2)(a)	TBC	Resubmitted now due 25 January