



Ref: OIA 2024-044

[REDACTED]

21 October 2024

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On 17 September 2024 you made a request under the OIA to DPMC asking for the following:  
*"I would like to make a request under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the period between November 2023 and the present date for*  
*(1) all information, advice and documents relating to New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including the Government's obligations relating to the NDC, and*  
*(2) any advice, including quantification, on how the Government could or intends to meet the first Nationally Determined Contribution."*

On 26 September 2024, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) transferred part of your request to He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission under section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA, as the information requested was believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the Commission. DPMC also transferred your request to MfE under the same section of the OIA. For the purposes of this transferred request, we have interpreted "the present date" to be the date your request was received by the Commission.

## Response

The Commission does not hold information, advice or documents relating to Aotearoa New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), nor does it hold advice on how the Government could or intends to meet the first NDC, in relation to the period between November 2023 and the present date.

However, in April 2020 the Minister for Climate Change asked the Commission to review Aotearoa New Zealand's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, and to produce advice on the potential reduction in biogenic methane (which might eventually be required by Aotearoa New Zealand as part of the global efforts under the Paris Agreement).

This request was made under section 5K of the Climate Change Response Act, which allows the Government of the day to request advice on specific topics at any time, following consultation with the Commission on the Terms of Reference. In 2021 we included our response to this request in our first advice to government, [Ināia tonu nei](#), which is available on our website.

Based on multiple conversations with stakeholders after the release of [Ināia tonu nei](#), we provided an [information note](#) later in 2021 summarising key facts about the potential impacts of Aotearoa New Zealand pursuing either deeper emissions reductions domestically than what was recommended in [Ināia tonu nei](#),



or pursuing purchasing offshore mitigation. The note was based on analysis previously completed for <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-aotearoa/> *Ināia tonu nei* and summarised information all on one concise document to help inform the Government's thinking as they developed New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan.

In October 2023 we received another request under Section 5K of the CCRA to provide advice to the Government to help inform Aotearoa New Zealand's second Nationally Determined Contribution. We provided feedback that further resource would be required to deliver the request as scoped.

In June 2024, the Government sent a new request under Section 5K, scoped to focus on domestic emissions reductions that could be achieved as part of the second nationally determined contribution (NDC2). The terms of reference for this request were agreed on 6 August 2024. You can read more background to these requests on our website here: <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/nationally-determined-contributions/ndc2-report/>

An NDC can also be met through supporting international cooperation, for example by paying for emissions reduction overseas. This international component is outside the scope of the Minister's request to the Commission.

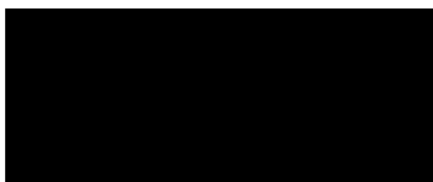
The report is due to the Minister of Climate Change by 31 October 2024, after which it will be made publicly available on our website. As this information will soon be made publicly available, we rely on section 18(d) of the Act to not provide it to you directly, at this stage.

As per the requirement under section 5(J) the CCRA the Commission must make the document publicly available as soon as practicable after it is presented to the House of Representatives, but no later than 20 working days after providing it to the Minister (even if the document has not been presented to the House by that date).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Nunns,  
General Manager Corporate Accountability and Operations