

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Key themes we heard in the discussion at the equitable transitions workshop:

- The importance of **trust** in institutions and in communities. We need public trust in what we are doing, this will enable the transitions. Trust comes from action and comes genuine relationships.
- As shown by Covid, people are **resilient** and will adapt to change. But people won't be able to deal with intense or sustained changes over longer periods of time. Change should be gradual, structured and planned so as to support people, e.g. people should be given the opportunity and support to change jobs.
- The value of a diversified approach and **systemic thinking** when looking at the climate transition. Systemic changes are needed to help people to see that climate change is important.
- When seeking input, the group also highlighted the need for the Commission to contextualise examples and reframe questions to **give people agency**. Negative questions can be disempowering and elicit negative answers.
- We need to acknowledge **complexity** and take a whole of systems perspective. If we are going to make change sustained, we need to think about the fundamentals. We need to consider the known/unknown impacts and the underlying settings to support people. We also need to think broader and consider the whole supply chain impact, such as the impact on businesses.
- Connecting to the **te ao Māori or Pasifika perspective**. We heard examples from the group of people connecting and living with the land, showing what partnership can really mean.
- The value of coordination and people communicating with another. This doesn't necessarily mean that all decisions should be centralised and that solutions should be large-scale. We should allow the flexibility for communities to provide local-based solutions for themselves.
- The need to **invest in communities** in times of stress as well as strength. A big part is active engagement and listening to people on the ground. Getting people on board early and making the just transition 'real' to maintain public confidence.
- There are **opportunities and co-benefits** in the transition (such as regenerative forestry or agriculture). We touched on some examples across New Zealand and of countries who are leading the 'just transition'.
- Finally, the need for **ambition and bravery**. Ambition does not necessarily have to come at the expense of equity and could also mean greater benefits.