

19 July 2018

Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
Wellington, 6143

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.

Please find attached a final draft of *Working Paper 2018/03 – Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors*, which forms the bulk of the McGuinness Institute’s submission in support of the Zero Carbon Bill. (Please note we do not wish to have this final draft published; we will send another copy of the working paper that we are happy to have published and which will include the last editorial changes). In this letter we briefly set out the answers to some of the submission questions and then provide context to *Working Paper 2018/03 – Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sector*.

Zero Carbon Bill submission questions

1. & 2.

The McGuinness Institute supports the government setting a target now to reach net zero emissions across all greenhouse gases by 2050.

3.

We believe the government should set an example to the world by achieving this target through reduction of domestic emissions only, without relying on international carbon credits.

4.

The Institute also supports ongoing review and/or revision of any targets set, as flexibility and adaptability will make us more resilient to risk and change.

8.

The Institute supports te Tiriti o Waitangi and believes that mātauranga Māori should explicitly be part of the knowledge relevant to climate change considered by the Climate Change Commission. We also note our support of consideration of the impact on poverty, as we discovered through our work in *Project TacklingPovertyNZ* that those experiencing poverty are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change (see tacklingpovertynz.org).

Working Paper 2018/03 – Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors

Working Paper 2018/03 – Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors is particularly relevant in answer to Q. 16. ‘Should we explore setting up a targeted adaptation reporting power that could see some organisations share information on their exposure to climate change risks?’. Our research highlights the current extent of climate change reporting in New Zealand and, in our opinion, the current standard is not sufficient to build an informed society capable of withstanding the effects of climate change.

The working paper builds on the research in *Working Paper 2018/01 – NZSX-listed Company Tables* by adapting its methodology to focus specifically on the disclosure of climate change information.

Working Paper 2018/03 – Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors draws on the work of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), particularly their core elements of recommended climate-related financial disclosures: governance, strategy, risk

management and metrics and targets. In the context of our research, these were adapted further into six categories of climate change information:

1. climate change risks,
2. emission metrics,
3. emission costs,
4. emission controls,
5. emission targets and
6. climate change initiatives.

These elements are mapped on a diagram of problem solving, linking: risk to identifying the problem (Phase 1), metrics and costs to understanding and benchmarking a problem (Phase 2) and controls, targets and initiatives to managing a problem (Phase 3).

Our overall observations and recommendations are found in Section 9.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this research in further detail.

Yours sincerely,



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