

Interventions ZERO CARBON BILL 2018

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To: Ministry for the Environment, c/o ZCB.Submissions@mfe.govt.nz

Author: Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn
Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Indigenous Fellow (2005)
B.L/B.Soc.Sci, LLM

Address:

PURPOSE

- i. *These interventions respond to the questions posed in the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE's) "Our Climate, Your Say" consultation document 2018 regarding the Zero Carbon Bill (the Bill).*

Overview

- ii. *Several big picture philosophical themes are applicable in terms of the Government's design and execution of the Bill. To reduce repetition in this paper, I outline them here. I invite MfE to have strong regard to them while reviewing my specific interventions below.*

"Seek and defend the truth."

(Kaitaia College motto)

- iii. *The need for certainty is understandable, especially in egoic humans with a deep psychological need to control everything. However, our climate emergency resulted from, and is being exacerbated by, a convergence of multidimensional factors and numerous systems failures (the development of our climate crisis wasn't a binary or linear journey). This means an inherently chaotic biosphere, and increasingly unstable societies.*
- iv. *In times of such unprecedented uncertainty, it's disingenuous to perpetuate the myth (whether through camouflaged or overt words and/ or actions) that society can retain the same levels of certainty, whether in business and industry or otherwise. Suppressing pono (the truth) is particularly illogical in a technological age where the speed of information access and sharing means the truth will become publicly known in any event (and sooner than predicted). We are now approaching the event horizon when the truth can no longer be hidden.*

- v. *It is also extremely irresponsible to represent many of the propositions in the booklet as “options”. We have as much “choice” regarding these propositions as we do as residents of a house that’s on fire: your options are either evacuate immediately, or perish. That’s a Clayton’s choice (i.e. no choice at all¹). Similarly with existential climate crisis, if faced with (a) ‘like our lives depend on it, like there’s no tomorrow’/ totally committed aspirational action to save the human race, or (b) ‘keeping some of our powder dry’/ halfhearted conservative action that exacerbates prospects for our species’ near term annihilation...it’s really no completion, and should be a clear no-brainer. Climate crisis isn’t a run-of-the-mill two-dimensional problem that we can fix with the luxury of time. It’s a predicament with no conventional solutions. Our failure decades’ ago to make the right decisions now means we must accept not only massive disruption to our convenient modern lifestyles, but increased human suffering. The key question is what meaningful effort will we make to optimize that failed space, while simultaneously seeking a miracle. ²*

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

(Martin Luther King)

- vi. *In other words, perpetuation of such false narratives is an exercise in futility which is doomed to lead only to mass confusion and suffering. It is ultimately dangerous, because it delays the affected population recognizing very testing climate crisis truths that they are unconsciously sensing, but scared to consciously face.*
- vii. *This is a time for inhabitants of our proverbial house on fire – especially its so-called leaders - to wake up, sound the alarm (as opposed to being ‘alarmist’) and collectively, with all due haste, act in a conscious, tika (right, well-informed) manner about our climate predicament. Acting in a timely, decisive way, with aroha (compassionately), is a sign of formidable mana (strong leadership). Urgent transformation will only come by stretching our comfort zones.*

“No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.”

(Albert Einstein)

- viii. *Given humanity’s arrogant and insanely misguided history, we can’t expect to match Nature’s superior and unfathomable fractal intelligence. However, we (including Governments) can and must, to the best of our ability, strive to surrender to, be guided by and emulate her infinitely wise processes and values. At a macro level, this would seem to be humanity’s saving grace, as certainly utilizing fallible and perverted human law has on balance been a catastrophically failed socio-economic experiment, despite all its fleeting and comparably micro successes.*
- ix. *This is simply a re-branding of ageless spiritual providence and ancient indigenous traditional wisdom. Significantly however – and to give Government confidence – such spiritual and indigenous insight is now being convincingly affirmed by the ‘western’ (as opposed to indigenous) scientific study of epigenetics; biophotonics; fractal, multiverse and holographic universe theory; quantum physics; consciousness and other metaphysical*

subjects that progressively illuminate the true nature of reality.³ Therefore, to think integration of such transcendent concepts is too abstract to be of any practical use in so far as climate crisis policy is concerned would be an extremely fatal mistake: on the contrary, a triangulation of archeological proof, testimony of living traditional knowledge-holders and western science now makes such tangible application remarkably achievable.

- x. *It is recognized that the aforementioned is antithetical to Westminster style politics (or even politics altogether), so a major challenge for politicians and government officials to grapple with. None the less, we are in a Time where everyone will be called upon to make profound sacrifices of both a tangible (e.g. convenient post-industrialist lifestyles) and intangible (e.g. mental, emotional, egoic) nature. Sacrifice is required for “utu” (restoring balance): value of a lower nature must be freely offered to gain value of a higher nature. At a minimum therefore, Government, those in business and all of civil society would do well, like Nature, to urgently shift more towards:
 - a. *inclusive, ‘this and that’ complex systems thinking, rather than adhering to dichotomous ‘this or that’ binary or linear propositions; and*
 - b. *strengthening anti-fragility /resilience through being mindful of what has worked, yet surrendering our attachments to how things were, are or should be. We must be more open to inevitable evolution and change (i.e. learn to go with the flow and embrace uncertainty, while grounded in the knowledge that there is a Grand order in the chaos).**
- xi. *Violation of Natural Law created our climate situation. Correspondingly, habitually aligning with Natural Law provides humanity with the best prospects for responding to the state of climate emergency.*

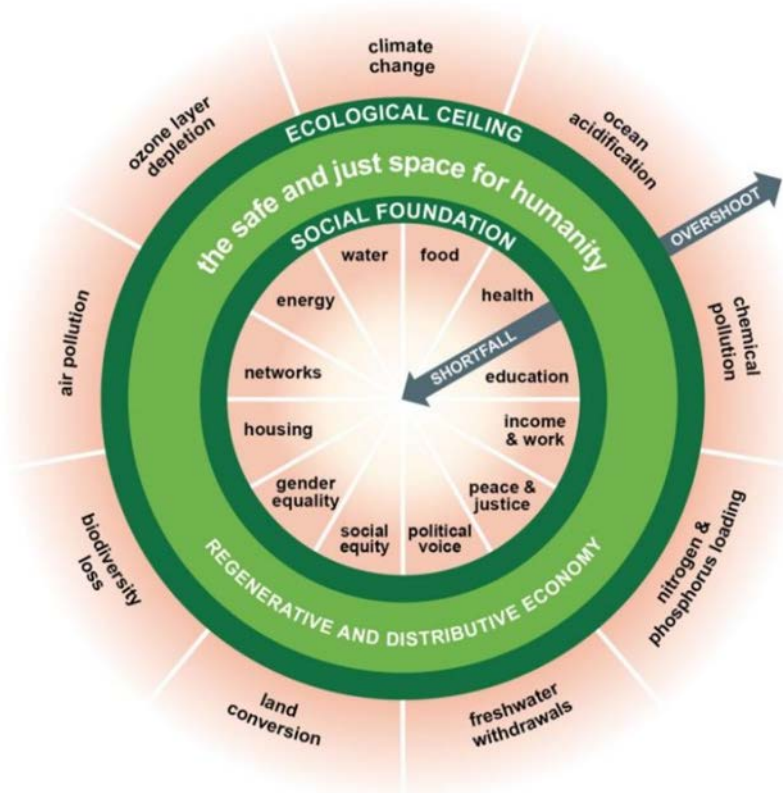
“It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.”

(Henry Ford)

- xii. *Speaking of the need for innovation and decoupling from unfit-for purpose constructs, I observe how the options in the consultation document are constrained by “cost effectiveness” and other so-called fiscal affordability considerations. The Government’s Budget Responsibility Rules (BRR), for example, creates a “policy of budget conservatism that stops it from responding boldly to all sorts of social and environmental deficits”.⁴ But Government is hamstrung by much more dogmatism than just the austerity-aligned BRR.*
- xiii. *On one level, if we’re coming from the perspective of optimizing the failed economic operating space,⁵ there is a clear history that whatsoever Governments have the political will to prioritize, the politicians will ‘find the money’ to fund it. But of course, Governments don’t literally have to go and “find” anything, they simply create it: since the de-coupling of currency from the Gold standard (the creation of modern fiat currency) and fractional reserve lending, the ability to create money out of nothing (with scant accountability) is exponentially increased, especially in this neo liberal capitalistic economy. This is evidenced*

by countries that incur debt⁶ for all manner of policy implementation. That financial institutions create debt-based money out of nothing is now widely known (more truth that can no longer be hidden from the populous).

xiv. On another level, it must be questioned why society continues to tolerate the needless suffering generated by today's failed capitalist economic operating system which is part of the larger reality of structural violence and oppression. There are many well-recognized models (such as the Doughnut model, right) which are based on more life-nurturing values. There are also more ways to progressively transcend the failed capitalistic economic system which would provide Aotearoa with more resources and



energize our efforts to meaningfully respond to climate crisis and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction: Universal Basic Income⁷, sovereign money,⁸ local currencies,⁹ reducing the working week (e.g. to 30 hours¹⁰), democratizing the workplace¹¹...there are countless possibilities. In other words, Governments should be prioritizing all necessary steps to preserve life, which ought to make artificial fiscal constructs like “cost effectiveness” largely inconsequential by comparison.

“Carbon trading is gearing up to make the housing and derivatives bubbles look like target practice.”

(Catherine Austin Fitts)

xv. Further to mechanisms that exacerbate the failings of the dominant economic operating system, it is also observed that the Government's GHG reducing proposals rely heavily on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). However, the mechanism has dismally failed to achieve the very outcome it was supposedly created to deliver: a decline in emissions.¹² Numerous experts¹³ have criticized the ETS as either being fundamentally unfit for purpose,¹⁴ a Ponzi scheme, or morally corrupt,¹⁵ or at the very least replaceable by a well-calibrated GHG tax (rather than a GHG trading scheme). Therefore, any commentary made below associated with the ETS is merely in reference to optimizing that failed mechanism. The superior situation would be for the Government to abort the ETS in favour of an effective green tax.

2050 TARGET

Q1: What process should the Government use to set a new emissions reduction target in legislation?

1. MfE offers a binary choice (“Pick one”). However, the Government’s commitment to ambitiously reduce Greenhouse Gas (**GHG**) emissions will be demonstrated through a convergence of multiple actions, not merely by setting a target in legislation.
- 1.1 I prefer the approach at p34 “Government could set a more general statement of ambition in the Bill [...]Then, the [...]Commission could advise, within a defined timeframe, on the specific target consistent with the statement of ambition.”

Q2: If the Government sets a 2050 target now, which is the best target for New Zealand?

2. Climate crisis is the most pressing situation humanity’s ever faced. If humanity fails here, all else is moot.
- 2.1 As such, it demands the most serious and courageous of responses. Indeed: to commit to anything less is a far more “radical” act - and horrifically so, as a lackluster political reaction is by any other name the irrational clinging on to a demonstrably destructive and egoic status quo.
- 2.2 The target which is most aspirational should therefore be supported: i.e. Net zero emissions across all GHGs by 2050 (at the latest, if at all possible sooner).

Q3: How should New Zealand meet its targets?

3. New Zealand should be using the most ambitious, effective, far-reaching emissions reduction package, and that would seem to include overseas units.

Q4: Should the Bill allow the 2050 target to be revised?

4. Yes. Mandating the Climate Change Commission (**the Commission**) to periodically advise on specific targets maximizes the much-needed responsiveness to new quality information moving forward.

EMISSIONS BUDGETS

Q5: Emissions budgets covering the next 15 years – Do you agree?

5. Yes, as long as they’re reviewable.

Q6: Should the Government be able to alter the last emission budget?

6. Yes.

Q7: Should the Government be able to alter the second emission budget (under exceptional circumstances)?

7. Yes.

Q8: Do you agree with the considerations we propose that the Government and the Commission take into account when advising on and setting budgets?

8. No.

8.1 Firstly, ref my “overview” comments above regarding “certainty”.

8.2 Secondly, five yearly budget settings may mitigate politicization of budget-setting somewhat, but it won’t be sufficient. This is because an antagonistic ‘opposition Party’ parliamentary system goads Parties to take every opportunity to attack or undermine the other. Indeed, ‘politicizing the issue’ appears to be a defining aspect of our parliamentary system.

8.3 In principle, and to give Aotearoa the best chance of mitigating climate crisis’ worst effects, political behavior must transcend tribal Party loyalties and focus instead on the highest collective good of all.¹⁶ Taking a complex systems theory approach, five yearly budget settings would need to be augmented with other mechanisms to achieve this lofty aim. The belts and braces (rather than silver bullets) that need to be simultaneously implemented must be explored further, but they should at a minimum include:

- a. Constitutional transformation that entrenches our particular ‘brand’ of value-based democracy founded on He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and which:
 - i. prioritizes the protection of our Life-sustaining environment first,
 - ii. human rights second,
 - iii. democratic institutions third, and crucially
 - iv. clarifies that values (i)-(iii) above are superior to the privileges of corporate legal personality entities (which are, in the opinion of many economic and other experts critically over-blown);
- b. Urgent implementation of a Living Standards framework¹⁷ (aligned with Aotearoa’s values-based constitution) to replace the Gross Domestic Product as a primary driver of State policy development; and
- c. Implementation of critical civics and economics education in schools, so as to nurture a new generation of empowered local and national leadership across the country that will keep our elected officials accountable.

8.4 Thirdly, the kaupapa (purpose) of “Banking or borrowing from one emissions budget to the next” is unclear. I imagine that the proposition draws from the model of moving money around on a balance sheet populated with line items concerning values that can

be commodified with a dollar value attributed to them. Most would find that a suitable tool to facilitate fiscal accountability. However, to treat the urgent imperative of reducing Life-destroying GHGs like just another balance sheet line item seems dreadfully mismatched and inappropriate.

- a. We should be mindful of the influence of language in assisting in the mobilization of the population to climate action. We have an inalienable right to life that is under serious threat, and must be protected. Right now, reduction of GHGs is critical to protecting that right. Locating the critical into the sphere of the mundane (i.e. a fiscal spreadsheet) trivializes, at an unconscious if not a conscious level, the gravity of the climate crisis predicament we're facing.
- b. As with fiscal budget spreadsheets, it also implies that GHG reduction commitments / budgets in one area may be re-deployed to off-set budget 'blow-outs' in other areas (which seems to mimic the philosophy of the failed ETS). This saves face for those in charge of GHG reduction (A.K.A. enabling the decision-makers to, by degrees, dodge an accountability bullet). For the population generally, it provides a degree of comfort that "on the whole" we're doing OK. However, more at stake here than decision-makers saving face is remaining committed to our GHG reduction goals. And the 'comfort' that people may feel from seeing numbers moved around on a fictitious balance sheet is largely a meaningless academic exercise because it can't hide the reality of a missed GHG target. It's like shuffling deckchairs around on the Titanic, which is distracting from what's important: i.e. doing all possible to save lives (in that scenario, evacuate passengers into the lifeboats). Rather, what we need is transparency and accountability of our elected officials, our decision-makers, and our GHG reducing systems – to know they have integrity and are effective. Fudging numbers will just make it more difficult to determine whether our systems are working well. What we also need is to keep the pressure on the whole of society, compassionately but forcefully.
- c. Further to comparisons with the failed ETS, the proposed banking/ borrowing of emissions seems similar to the perverse and highly destructive act (worse, but not exclusive to, neo liberal capitalistic economic operating systems) of commodifying and financializing the necessities of life generally - such as land/ soil, genetic material, water and air.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Q9: Should the Bill require Governments to set out plans within a certain timeframe to achieve the emissions budgets?

9. Yes.

Q10: What are the most important issues for the Government to consider in setting plans to meet its budgets?

10. I repeat my comments in the above “Overview” section and Q8 above, and emphasize that such planning needs to:
 - 10.1 *Have a strong nexus* with a values-based approach, especially the protection and realization of internationally recognized human rights – including those regarding a healthy environment. This is particularly important as those more vulnerable and disempowered in society – children, women, tangata whenua, disabled, elderly – will be affected earliest and more harshly by climate crisis;
 - 10.2 *Have due regard for* the informed voices of local communities, tangata whenua, and the regions (for example, see **Attached** list of Climate instruments);
 - 10.3 *Recognize* that the structural violence of the oppressive capitalistic economy includes intellectual property regimes,¹⁸ the insurance industry¹⁹ and other mechanisms. If wrongly calibrated, these will continue to facilitate the devious harvesting of wealth from the 99% and concentrate that wealth under the control of a relative few elites in Aotearoa and on our Planet;
 - 10.4 *Ensure* honest quadruple bottom line (i.e. environmental, social, cultural and economic) auditing of companies to make transparent the full externalized costs of production.²⁰ This will then enable a more well-informed response;
 - 10.5 *Commit to* using honest language, including where necessary re-framing narratives in a tika (right, correct), pono (truthful, with integrity) and aroha (tolerance, understanding, compassion, loving) way (as dumbing down the truth ultimately does more net harm than good). For example:
 - a. The statement “a new industrial revolution is taking place”²¹ implies this is a good thing. In truth, the industrialization of the necessities of Life have created a net deficit and net harm (poverty, climate crisis and such);
 - b. The implication that Aotearoa has time to gradually phase in²² climate action “over time”²³ using “long-term” targets²⁴ flies in the face of the real near-term extinction event horizon which is rapidly approaching;
 - c. We’re beyond needing to create a “sustainable” economy that’s “carbon neutral”.²⁵ We’re in a sixth mass extinction event: we need a regenerative economy, including a GHG ‘net negative’ Aotearoa;
 - d. Rather than mere health, socio-economic and environmental “benefits” which a move to a net zero emissions economy will incidentally deliver,²⁶ these should be referred to as “human rights”²⁷ which the State is obliged to protect and implement;
 - e. The statement “Jobs are continually created and lost”²⁸ may have been intended to appease people’s labour and employment anxieties. However, it falsely implies that now is the same as before, by omitting that Aotearoa is now facing more job losses due to globalization, technological redundancy and other factors. Similarly with “the economy will continue to grow but possibly less quickly”²⁹ – this perpetuates

the dangerous idea that society can continue to violate the laws of physics and have infinite growth on a finite planet, without consequence (and that our Government's OK with that);

- 10.6 *Ensure* internal consistency of all Government statements and messaging. This is critical to support people to be clear in their understanding of climate crisis matters. For example:
- a. It's a nonsense to say on the one hand "we need to make sure we bring everyone with us and leave no one behind"³⁰ when farming and agriculture are continuing to receive preferential treatment (be unfairly subsidized);
 - b. The statement "Over 30 years, New Zealand's economy will change, just as it has over the past 30 years"³¹ omits important context that neo liberal capitalism was introduced in the 1980's. That was a major "change" with profound consequences (largely negative). So to compare the past and future three decades is like comparing apples and oranges, unless and until there's an equally disruptive economic shift (hopefully for the better, e.g. to an economy more akin to democratic socialism);
- 10.7 *Concentrate attention on* proven effective action such as GHG reducing proposals in "Drawdown - 100 Solutions to Reverse Global Warming"³²;

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Q11: The Government has proposed that the Commission advises on and monitors New Zealand's progress towards its goals. Do you agree with these functions?

11. Generally yes.
- 11.1 The Commission should ensure compliance of all climate change plans with Aotearoa's core values (see above re constitutional transformation, human rights, economic reform and strengthening a values-based society). This requires that the Commission have the freedom to be responsive and advise the government on climate change matters as it sees fit.
- 11.2 Furthermore, New Zealand has an independent Commerce Commission with strong powers, including an enforcement and adjudication role concerning the dairy sector.³³ The Reserve Bank is also another independent entity with formidable decision-making powers in the area of monetary policy. The decisions of both have major and far-reaching consequences for New Zealand.
- 11.3 If these institutional precedents already exist, we should at least test the proposition that the Climate Change Commission, an expert body which is to deal with the most urgent issue of our time, should similarly have strong powers. Its mandate should at least enable it to make recommendations regarding its area of expertise, if not have a mix of advisory and binding powers (as does the Waitangi Tribunal).

11.4 I acknowledge the concern that “Delegating too much power could risk susceptibility to changes by future parliaments”.³⁴ By the same token, however, Governments that seek to destabilize the Commission for selfish and/ or short-term political agendas would indicate a much more menacing pathology of democracy (compared to the micro problem of a dysfunctional Commission). This risk makes all the more critical the need to entrench constitutional values and institutions to protect our democracy.

Q12: What role should the Commission have in relation to the ETS?

12. Refer to my comments in the “overview” sections regarding the ETS, and above under Q11 regarding the Commission’s powers. The Commission should have the ability to make decisions not just in respect of the ETS, but also make recommendations as to whether New Zealand should retain the ETS at all.

Q13: The Government has proposed that the Commissioners need a range of expertise. Do you agree?

13. Generally yes. However, the range needs to be broadened to include not just the usual suspects of western scientists and economic ‘experts’ (so-called) which would arguably position New Zealand society on the spectrum of Stockholm Syndrome victims (in so far as many of these may be of a paradigm that significantly contributed to our climate demise in the first place). Rather, we need ‘experts’ (and not necessarily conventionally ‘credentialed’ ones) that reflect the complex nature of the situation we’re dealing with: e.g. psychologists, sociologists, tangata whenua with traditional and indigenous scientific knowledge, systems and chaos theorists, metaphysical scientists, etc.

ADAPTING TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Q14: Should the Bill cover adapting to climate change?

14. Yes.

Q15: Do you agree with the Government’s proposed functions to help us adapt to climate change?

15. Yes, although the Commission’s functions to help with adaptation should be periodically reviewable to enable the Commission to remain responsive to changing priorities and data.³⁵

Q16: Should we explore setting up a targeted adaptation reporting power that could see some organizations share information on their exposure to climate change risks?

16. In the interests of full transparency and making well-informed decisions, yes. However, we are also in a technological, ‘big brother’, globalist Age where government agencies have already failed to protect information. A considerable risk is therefore the control, access and use of harvested data. The Government will need to first reassure robust

systems are in place if it is to expect citizens to agree with increasing organizations' disclosure of more information.

Naku noa,

Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn

Ngāti Kuri, Te Rarawa

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Indigenous Fellow (2005)

B.L/B.Soc.Sci, LLM

Attachment: Climate Declarations List

Far North Citizens' Climate Declaration (2 November 2015)

<https://www.scribd.com/document/290107183/Peoples-Climate-Crisis-Declaration-Nov-2015-final>

Our Climate Declaration (2017)

<http://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/>

Inaugural Māori Leaders Climate Change Summit Call to Action (25 March 2018)

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1803/S00339/maori-call-for-climate-action.htm>

Te Tai Tokerau Climate Action Declaration (8-9 June 2018)

<https://northlandclimatechange.org/2018/07/04/te-tai-tokerau-climate-action-declaration/>

¹ Dr Mike Joy (Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Science at Massey University) talks about vegetarianism as the single most significant practice individuals can embrace to curb the worst effects of climate crisis. In that context he states, "You could frame it as a choice, but we won't have the choice for much longer. We must, or we'll starve, it's as simple as that.": ref "The Future of Food is vegetarian because neither animal farming nor fossil fuels can last – "We're basically eating oil, and it's coming to an end"" (28 June 2018) at

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/stories/2018648061/the-future-of-food-is-vegetarian-because-neither-animal-farming-nor-fossil-fuels-can-last>.

² I.e. an extraordinary and fortunate event that is not explicable by known scientific laws, but is instead attributed to some as yet unknown scientific (including meta-physical) law, or divine intervention.

³ Not spirituality and indigenous knowledge needed any vindication, but if it helps to make more people receptive to these ideas then that is obviously helpful.

⁴ Ref Bryce Edwards, "Labour's budget rules are holding it back" (14 April 2018), at

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2018/04/09/103825/labours-budget-rules-are-holding-it-back#>.

⁵ Professor Richard Wolff is among several economic experts who critiques capitalism. For example, he states "Capitalism is an inherently unstable system. I like to tell my students that if they lived with a roommate as unstable as this economic system, they would have moved out long ago." – ref "Capitalism And Its Discontents" (February 2012) at <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/434/capitalism-and-its-discontents>; and transcript "Capitalism Hits the Fan - A lecture by Richard Wolff (Unabridged Version)" (2009) at <http://www.mediaed.org/transcripts/Capitalism-Hits-the-Fan-Transcript.pdf>.

⁶ The most infamous being the United States which is now reportedly in debt to the tune of USD\$trillions (see https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/06/26/the-federal-debt-is-headed-for-the-highest-levels-since-world-war-ii-cbo-says/?utm_term=.49b9549b72d0) even though it is highly improbable that repayment of USA's debts will ever be enforced (ref <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/02/why-the-us-government-never-ever-has-to-pay-back-all-its-debt/272747/>) – a perverse situation matched only by the sickening level of rising poverty in the country.

⁷ See “Universal basic income: U.S. support grows as Finland ends its trial” (1 May 2018) at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/01/nearly-half-of-americans-believe-a-universal-basic-income-could-be-the-answer-to-automation-.html>.

⁸ For example, see <http://positivemoney.org/our-proposals/sovereign-money-introduction/>, <https://www.sovereignmoney.eu/what-is-sovereign-money/>, and <https://internationalmoneyreform.org/news/2018/06/our-take-on-the-results-of-the-swiss-sovereign-money-referendum/>.

⁹ See for example “From the Lake District to east London: which areas have local currencies?” (1 May 2018) at <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/07/27/liverpool-east-london-local-currencies-making-comeback/>.

¹⁰ See for example “How Toyota Gothenburg moved to a 30-hour workweek and boosted profits and customer satisfaction” (6 January 2016) at <https://positivesharing.com/2016/01/toyota-gothenburg-30-hour-work-week/> and “Ignore the headlines: a six-hour working day is the way forward” (6 January 2017) at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jan/06/ignore-headlines-six-hour-working-day-swedish>.

¹¹ See for example R Wolff, “Democratizing the Workplace through “Worker Self-Directed Enterprises”” (13 February 2018) at https://www.democracyatwork.info/democratizing_the_workplace.

¹² For example, see “EU emissions trading: 5 reasons to scrap the ETS” (26 October 2015) at <https://corporateeurope.org/environment/2015/10/eu-emissions-trading-5-reasons-scrap-ets>.

¹³ See “Experts: Carbon Tax needed and NOT Cap-and-Trade Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)” at <https://sites.google.com/site/yarravalleyclimateactiongroup/carbon-tax-needed-not-cap-and-trade-emission-trading-scheme-ets>.

¹⁴ “Professor Euan Mason of the University of Canterbury's School of Forestry said [...]”How could you recommend to anyone to participate in New Zealand's emissions trading scheme when the supply of bogus credits is infinitely variable?” - ref “ETS proposals 'last nail in coffin' – expert” (26 July 2017) at https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11895250.

¹⁵ For example, see Heidi Bachram, “Climate Fraud and Carbon Colonialism: the New Trade in Greenhouse Gases” (Capitalism Nature Socialism, Volume 15, Number 4 (December 2004), at <http://www.carbontradewatch.org/pubs/cns.pdf>.

¹⁶ I say “in principle” because we could have a lengthy discussion about how to define “highest collective good of all”. For the time being, I would say any such definition needs to be strongly tied to the protection and realization of internationally recognized human rights – including those regarding a healthy environment.

¹⁷ Ref <https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/living-standards>.

¹⁸ Ref consultation document, p7.

¹⁹ Ref consultation document, p7.

²⁰ Ref “New UN report finds almost no industry profitable if environmental costs were included” (9 April 2015) at <https://www.exposingtruth.com/new-un-report-finds-almost-no-industry-profitable-if-environmental-costs-were-included/>.

²¹ Consultation document, p7.

²² Consultation document, p7.

²³ Consultation document, p8.

²⁴ Consultation document, p8.

²⁵ Consultation document, p8.

²⁶ Consultation document, p10.

²⁷ See “List of Human Rights Issues” at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/ListOfIssues.aspx>.

²⁸ Consultation document, p10.

²⁹ Consultation document, p10.

³⁰ Consultation document, p8.

³¹ Consultation document, p10.

³² Ref <https://www.drawdown.org/>.

³³ See <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/regulated-industries/dairy-industry/>.

³⁴ Ref consultation document, p42.

³⁵ For example, information proposed by the “Drawdown” project (ref <https://www.drawdown.org/>) and other initiatives.