Dear Tim Groser (Minister for Climate Change Issues),

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission regarding the New Zealand Government’s Climate Change target.

I call on the government of Aotearoa New Zealand to adopt a minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction in net domestic greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030.

I make this call for the following reasons:

• If human made greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current record-breaking rate, leading to a temperature rise of more than 4C by the end of the century, 16% of species, or one in six, face extinction. I don’t want this to happen.
• A large fraction of both terrestrial and freshwater species faces increased extinction risk under projected climate change during and beyond the 21st century. I don’t want this to happen.

New Zealand has met its current greenhouse gas emissions targets largely through the purchasing of reductions (carbon off-sets) while increasing our emissions at home (21% increase since 1990). I think there is more that we can and should do at home in Aotearoa New Zealand as part of a fair contribution.

The expense of not reducing our emissions is far greater, particularly for future generations, than the costs of reducing our emissions now.

Please adopt a minimum target of a 40% emissions reduction in net domestic greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030.

Yours sincerely,
Anna and Chris Fairley