Dear Ministry for Environment

This is my submission on our input to the intended nationally determined contributions to global reduction of greenhouse gases, for the December 2015 Paris conference.

1. **I want New Zealand to undertake to move to zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, and call for other nations to set the same target, in order to avoid exceeding the global emissions budget estimated for the planet.**

This is alongside reductions in other greenhouse gases. We are in a position to achieve this because of the huge advantage that we have with approximately 80 per cent renewable electricity and ability to move to 100 per cent. There is rich potential to convert most of our transport fleets to electric power, including the use of gas turbine assists for some.

2. **I want to see a short and long term national strategy to achieve these emissions targets.**

Other nations such as the UK and Denmark are developing and implementing these plans in relation to their conditions and energy generation assets. Germany has made huge progress over the last 20 years on wind, solar and the use of agricultural surplus materials. Norway is looking to the future when North sea oil is no longer an asset, by rapidly converting vehicle fleets to operate from electricity. Norway is one of few countries that are as rich as New Zealand in terms of renewable electricity generation, so we can learn from their approach.

There is no shortage of studies that outline such a strategy for clean energy supply in all sectors of national energy systems. One of the benefits for New Zealand, as a small country a long way from insecure petroleum supplies, will be increased national transport energy security. We will become more vulnerable on oil supply in the future. Part of the climate protection strategy should include promotion and helping to enact a Global Oil Depletion Protocol, which limits consumption of petroleum to the global depletion rate.

3. **I want the present Government to establish a cross-party climate actions group, which has an ongoing programme to engage with all New Zealanders on long term solutions**

4. **I want to see a New Zealand climate strategy law, which holds the Government of the day accountable for reducing emissions, and an independent Climate commission.**

The Climate Commission would have have responsibility to : act independently in a non-politicised way; advise the Government of the day on climate improvement policies; hold the Government accountable to the strategy; report in a regular basis to Parliament and the people of New Zealand.

5. **Urgency**

The urgency of this global issue of the twenty first century is very well known. The conference in Paris is only a few months away. We are well aware that the window of opportunity to keep greenhouse gas temperature rise not exceeding 2 degrees Celsius will last only 10 years. Our New Zealand scientists are active in many areas including Antarctic climate research and have spoken very clearly (along with
international colleagues) on the dangers and speed of climate change. We must make an effective contribution to the December meeting and demonstrate commitment that will lead and encourage other nations.

6. I want the Government to show the Paris conference that climate solutions are a positive investment in the future for the people of New Zealand.

We know from World Bank advice and our own common sense estimates that delaying to implement a climate strategy will impose a great cost burden on future generations. The cost estimates of climate strategy and clean energy investments are consistently low in national budget terms: eg. Stern report about 1%, Denmark’s current plan about 0.5%, NZ model 1 -2%. Given that we already live with some of the effects of negative climate change, we must not delay any longer investing in a New Zealand wide climate strategy.

Sincerely

Tony Hartnett