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Ministry for Energy  
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*via email*

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

*Re: Submission on climate change policy*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input at one of the recent consultation meetings and for this opportunity to make a written submission. Climate change is one of the most important issues confronting the world today. Our very future depends on getting it "right". Taking no action or making minimal noises is simply not going to cut any ice. The threat to our planet is real and we can simply not afford to sit back and be complacent. It is essential the world moves towards a low carbon, clean energy future with hope for young and future generations.

Other countries are taking genuine steps towards reducing net greenhouse gas emissions. Denmark for instance has established a bold plan to end dependence on fossil fuel by 2050. In contrast New Zealand's net greenhouse gas emissions have risen by over 100% in the period 1990 to 2012 with the European Union achieving a reduction of 19% in the same period (according to a European Environmental Agency report). We still subsidise fossil fuel extraction, build uneconomic and unsustainable motorways, and aim to move towards diesel trains in place of the recent electrification.

With this submission I support the following urgent steps with regards to taking action on climate change:

- set a local zero carbon target by the year 2040;
- place a moratorium on new fossil fuel exploration;
- phase out existing extraction within a decade;
- use "true-cost accounting" when assessing costs and benefits
- develop cross-party plans to ensure we meet our targets;
- abide by the Treaty of Waitangi.

If we are genuinely serious about reducing our carbon emissions then we must simply put a halt to opening any new coal mines in the country. We need a Climate Change Act to sign carbon emissions targets into law and establish an independent climate commission to provide expert advice on climate policy and hold the Government accountable.

My plea is for New Zealand to once again assume a leadership role in the world, for New Zealand to lead the way in devising strategies to genuinely reduce net greenhouse gas emissions – just as New Zealand once led the world when it came to womens suffrage, just as New Zealand once led the world when declaring ourselves nuclear-free. It is up to us to now once again lead the world and demonstrate that our clean green image is not just a veneer but something that can be admired and emulated. It is enhancing that clean green image that will boost our economy – both in regards to enhancing our export industry and encouraging tourism.

Please note that I am available to make an oral submission.

***Oliver Hoffmann***