From Lindsay Zelf and Margaret Pearl

May 29 2015

Submission to Tim Groser
Minister for Climate Change Issues:

Sir,
Does this Government intend to be remembered as the government that did too little to prepare New Zealand for the effects of climate change, too late for it to have any practical effect, and thereby sacrificed the inheritance of generations to come – for the sake of holding on to power, wealth and your own well-being? Is this how you want your grandchildren and their children to know you?

They will not thank you for it. They will not remember you without shame.
It really doesn’t matter, at all, what the rest of the world may be doing – if you are not doing everything you can to avoid catastrophe, you are culpable for the consequences. The science is unarguable, those consequences are spelled out for all to evaluate and know. Will this Government bury its head, and thus also the hopes, dreams, life expectancies, living standards and health prognoses of future generations of citizens? How is this defensible now, let alone to one’s great-grandchildren?

We ask that the INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution):

(i) commits to a **global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050** or sooner, with annual steps outlining how to get there as quickly as possible.

(ii) places an immediate **moratorium on fossil fuel exploration**, and pledges to phase out existing extraction within the decade. All subsidies, funding and tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry are also phased out within the decade.

(iii) includes **credible, transparent, cross-party plans**, with a legislated, independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets
its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.

(iv) Abides by the **articles laid out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi**.

(v) includes **health, fairness, and the true costs of inaction on climate change** in the assessment of costs and benefits.

vi) follows a **transparent decision-making process** after the consultation process ends.

At least, it might signal a committed beginning.

Yours faithfully,

**Lindsay Zelf**

**Margaret Pearl**