

SUBMISSION to the Productivity Commission

Draft Report on 'Transition Pathways to a Low-Emissions Economy'

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To Whom it May Concern.

He iti, He pounamu

It may be small but it is very precious

Ko Oreti taku awa
Ko Takitimu taku maunga,
Ko Takitimu taku waka
Ko Ngaitahu taku iwi
Ko Te Rau Aroha taku marae

No Mossburn taku kainga

Ko Jenny Campbell ahau

Kia ora e hoa ma. I appreciate the chance to give feedback on this significant and urgent issue not only for our county, but also for our world. Thank you to the Productivity Commission for its insightful report – very useful for not only Government, business and agricultural sectors, but also for the general public of New Zealand who are very concerned not only for themselves but also for the future of our planet. We ask- what kind of a world are we leaving for not only our own children, grandchildren and future generations of people, but also for every other living thing which forms the web of life and shows how intricately we are dependent on each other. Finally and thankfully we have a chance to contribute to a document which addresses many of the challenges and concerns we face now and in to the future. There has been a lot of frustration about the lack of action by Governments and the business sector.

I have used the Commission's "At a Glance" headings for my submission .

Terms of Reference.

The phrase 'while continuing to grow incomes and wellbeing....'.... to me does not seem probable or practical given the urgency of the work which must be done to mitigate climate change. It means we can no longer live thinking we can 'grow incomes and well being' because of the climate disruption we are already seeing. There is an urgent need to reduce our consumption of the earth's resources and this drive to always have '**more**' in order to be happy, which are endangering our ecological systems, causing the signs of continuing climate disruption, not making people have a sense of 'well being' but rather a sense of 'foreboding'.

The increasing signs and implications of climate change are leading to our realisation of limits and abuse of our resources which we have often taken and are continuing to take for granted. These include * burying minerals in landfills, * an ever increasing demand for energy with little regard for conserving or reducing it, * increasing pressure on fresh and salt water needed for daily life and habitats, * removing forests resulting in reduced carbon sinks, erosion and soil loss, * fishing to depletion levels, * using land inappropriately until it turns in to desert, * increasing stock intensification on farms and a * 'throw away' society.

Continuing to strive for increasing 'economic growth' needs to stop driving our societies before we cross the threshold of not being able to reduce our carbon and other pollutants coming from this philosophy which are causing climate change and disruption of weather patterns. It is an unrealistic assumption which many organisations such as the World Bank have spoken out about.

A change in thinking is needed by everyone, led by Governments and businesses to * reduce waste, * reduce population growth, * reduce our impacts on the environment especially those which are destroying other organisms, * reduce energy consumption, * use sustainable resources, * stop using fossil fuels and * re- think what it means to have 'well- being' and happiness.

In order to pursue a viable future economy, we will need to make very hard choices away from endless economic growth in order to achieve sustainable development goals, on a global scale with all countries taking responsibility in this. Drastic changes are needed world wide and Aotearoa/ NZ 's commitment has to date been one of 'reluctance ', seeing ourselves as a 'special' case, particularly in the field of agriculture.

Unfortunately technological solutions and innovation cannot provide more resources or turn the tide on the implications of our present and past ill- treatment of our earth which has led to these dramatic changes. The situation now is very urgent and dire consequences as a result of this abuse are presently being felt by many countries eg Pasifika, Bangladesh, Arctic and Antarctic, none of which have been the major causes of this climate disruption/ change.

Humans have never faced such a dire, urgent challenge which has to be acted on by all nations in order to save our planet from the inevitable drastic temperature rise with drastic consequences for all living things.

It will be very costly to all countries in terms of money but even more costly if we all do not take urgent action to stem the tide of what seems almost inevitable from our present perspective.

For all of the above reasons it is necessary to change this emphasis on 'economic growth' to alternative models in order to save the planet.

NEW ZEALAND'S ROLE:

As outlined in your Draft report Aotearoa/NZ has been a leader in many areas of justice, particularly on a social justice front. We are seen as a nation which takes action well above its physical and population based 'size' but unfortunately on this present life threatening issue, our past leadership has failed to take responsibility. In particular little action has been taken to apply the essential measures to meet the commitments made at recent COP decisions in Paris.

We have a very high level of economic well-being which puts it in a place where we have been contributing to green house gas levels well above what other poorer nations have contributed and which have a much lower GDP. For these reasons we have moral and ethical reasons for stepping up, owning up to what we have helped create on a global scale and be prepared to take action in a swift and decisive manner. Our carbon emissions are among the highest in the world per-capita and we need to show leadership to remedy this and model our responsibility to other rich nations which like us continue to behave extravagantly while poorer nations bear the brunt of our arrogance. Poorer nations cannot be expected to act when we are not showing leadership and commitment to others around the globe who are already suffering as a result of our first world attitude and actions.

PATHWAYS TO A LOW EMISSIONS ECONOMY:

I totally agree with this statement "... the sooner that emissions reductions begin, the less disruptive the transition will be."

Moving to a low carbon economy with a just transition is essential and is already happening as people realise the absolutely essential need to do this. People take on change quite slowly but the examples being set by Councils and local bodies, businesses, NGOs and individuals who are leading the change- is drawing more people in to a new way of 'being'. They can see the impacts of climate change already with more frequent heavy rain and wind storms impacting their land, homes, roads, other infrastructure and local environment bringing slips, soil and stock loss. People are feeling this through rises in rates to be able to mitigate these impacts, alongside rises in insurance costs with some land and home owners being warned their properties may not be able to be insured in the future because of the impact of climate change.

Even if some people don't believe in climate change they are feeling the impact on their lifestyles and costs. This is a wake-up call.

There needs to be more education with the general public involved and a lot of this may happen as a result of the Zero Carbon Act conversations- so increasing awareness. The advantages of a 'just' transition need to be stressed with positive stories and ways forward with lots of ways the general public can be involved- learning from others as they listen and ask questions.

I agree with this statement. "To motivate citizens, financial incentives and information about climate change threats need to be complemented by positive discourses about economic, social and cultural benefits of low-carbon innovations."

POLICY CHANGE TO DRIVE AN EFFECTIVE TRANSITION:

EMISSIONS PRICING:

Businesses will not change their habits quickly unless a realistic price is put on carbon. This needs to be done very soon to increase our chances of meeting our international obligations which we have signed up to. The ETS scheme has not worked in my opinion, with the buying of overseas credits a real sham as nothing needed to be done to reduce actual emissions at the source.

A carbon tax will directly influence consumer choices leading to more impact as people make positive changes in their own lifestyles- so influencing business through their buying power!

It is unethical and immoral if we older people who have the power in Government and industry do not take swift action so that future generations of people and all other organisms have any chance at a secure and prosperous future.

Higher prices must be set for CO₂, CH₄ and NO separately. Those who pollute should pay higher prices which should then be passed to those who are doing off-setting activities, to support them eg those planting forests to sequester carbon.

The hard decisions such as progressive carbon pricing are essential even though there will be a lot of opposition. Good news stories of people who have made the shift and who are doing it for the good of the planet, not just for profit and shareholders, could be shared far and wide with the public then encouraged to support them. This gives them social licence and takes away polluters social licence eg especially with the fossil fuel industries which are our main polluters. !

I expect the Government to show strong leadership on this matter.

STABLE AND ENDURING LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS:

support the ideas as outlined here .

We need clear and stable climate policies, mitigation targets and emissions targets.

There needs to be strong and transparent measuring done with the results reported in the public arena. This will help the public discern which businesses to support which will help drive the transformation.

They need to be set up urgently, with strong deterrents for those who do not comply/ break the laws, and be in place so that changes in Government will not affect their continuing strong reinforcement for the public good and the good of our planet.

HARNESSING INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT:

Industrial carbon capture cannot be relied upon to be effective as has already been shown around the world.

Ocean iron-enrichment and cloud-seeding are too risky to be undertaken and interfere with our natural environmental processes which could cause even more damage to our already damaged eco-systems

Desperate and untried measures must be avoided at all cost.

More money needs to be put in to research and development around such aspects as reducing carbon emissions, storing energy, energy conservation, and effective carbon sequestration. Carbon capture may enable the non-fossil manufacture of vital synthetics such as polymers,

lubricants, paints & dyes, carbon fibre, medicines, and fabrics.

On-going initiatives towards lower-carbon production of steel is one such example of needing more research. Having New Zealanders leading in these innovative practices could bring real and long lasting benefits to our country and the world with our country already recognised internationally for these attributes.

A strong push needs to be given to agriculture to reduce their green house gas (GHG) emissions, reduce artificial nitrogen application and encourage moving away from intensive livestock farming to horticulture and forestry. Reducing dairying along with producing meat and the huge meat consumption people here are known for needs to be given serious attention with strong incentives put in place. People are already moving to a more organic and vegetarian type of diet and finding its benefits as well as bringing positive impacts to our health system. People are more and more growing their own vegetables and these trends need to be encouraged. All of these help reduce our GHG emissions and people should be encouraged in this shift of thinking as it has a lot of benefits.

I agree with this statement:- "Phasing out existing systems accelerates transitions by creating space for niche innovations and removing barriers to their diffusion. The phase-out of carbon-intensive systems is also essential to prevent the bulk of fossil fuel reserves from being burned, which would obliterate the 20°C target. This phase out will be challenging because it threatens the largest and most powerful global industries (e.g. oil, automobiles, electric utilities, agrofood, and steel) which will fight to protect their vested economic and political interests." 17

It is essential that all coal mining is phased out as soon as possible and no new coal mines are allowed to open. Unless coal and other fossil fuel exploration and production is stopped we will not be able to keep below the 20°C target. Oil and CNG need to be part of this ban as well and divestment from these companies is a way we can give a strong message to them to stop wrecking our planet. They know the impact of what they are doing. It is irresponsible, amoral and sheer greed which drives their industries. We don't need such arrogance and blatant disregard for our planet associated with our supposed 'clean green image'!

A strong clear timetable to stop all of these fossil fuel extractive industries operating in Aotearoa/NZ is essential and must be regarded as urgent.

Finance needs to be diverted to producing sustainable businesses not dependent on fossil fuels eg installing solar panels on every new roof in the country alongside more small wind generators . This would promote clean energy sources and stop the need for fossil fuel extraction.

expect a clear timetable will be set out for the early phase-out of all fossil-fuel extraction in Aotearoa / NZ , including its territorial waters.

SUPPORTIVE REGULATION AND POLICIES:

New Zealand's transport system:

Vehicles.

The suggestion of a vehicle 'feebate' system is, in principle, a good one which I strongly support .

The sooner New Zealand develops a viable nationwide infrastructure for the sale and servicing of EVs the better. Active national planning for recharge infrastructure and the adoption of EVs for the Central and local government vehicle fleets would send positive signals and should be examples for others to follow .

Access to a strong network of public transport options and alternatives are essential to getting cars off our roads and reducing GHG emissions.

International Travel and Trade.

Our geographically remoteness works against our interests re emissions associated with international trade. Currently, any gains in fuel efficiency appear to be more than offset by increased shipping and air traffic – especially inbound tourism. Encouraging New Zealanders to see their own country first would increase local tourism dollars and hopefully reduce international visitors- all adding to GHG emissions.

The carbon footprint of tourism, both inbound and outbound, must pay the cost of that carbon must through carbon taxes as everyone else is expected to do. Tourists need to offset their GHG emissions via accredited reforestation schemes.

LOW EMISSIONS ELECTRICITY:

Current disincentives for small-scale solar energy generation by households and businesses must be removed with households able to sell excess electricity back into the grid as of right. The development of a smart grid to distribute this energy nationwide will make the grid more resilient, and therefore outages and price spikes will be far less likely.

There needs to be a whole campaign on electricity use conservation so back up fossil electricity generation is not needed. As coal has the highest carbon profile per unit energy, its use in energy generation should be phased out immediately.

The private sector is neither equipped nor motivated to accommodate shortages. Therefore backup energy generation should be compulsorily nationalised and maintained for now, with maintenance costs shared industry-wide, and back-up energy sold to wholesalers when needed.

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS:

Waste sector:

I support the proposed extensions to the waste disposal levy, along with improved data collection, and support for local councils.

I recommend that methane emission from landfill sites be monitored and active measures implemented to minimise it. New methods of capturing methane eg from dairy effluent and using it as a local energy sources should be encouraged by government incentives

SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS FACING COSTS:

I strongly support the proposal that low-income households be supported in facing costs incurred by climate policy.

A 'just' transition needs to be mindful of the less well-off who may find themselves seriously disadvantaged by climate initiatives and the resulting structural changes. Local government has already been meeting this issue in Southland where air pollution was a huge issue in the main centres. People could get an interest free loan to change their heating system to electricity or new wood burners. This scheme has been very well received and needs to be implemented across the country.

Where employment patterns change, or the cost of food and transport is affected there needs to be support for a just transition for those on lower incomes so they can do their bit and can feel empowered to act as everyone else is doing. We are all in this together.

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora te iwi.

From my food basket and your food basket there is sufficient for everyone.

Rangimarie, kia kaha.

Jenny Campbell