

29 September 2017

New Zealand Productivity Commission
PO Box 8036
The Terrace,
Wellington 6143

Dear Commission

Pegasus Health (Charitable) Ltd is a large primary health care organisation in Canterbury with around 395,000 people enrolled in its general practice services, representing the majority of the Christchurch population. Pegasus is committed to promoting, maintaining and restoring the health of its enrolled population.

Pegasus recognises that while high quality, accessible primary health care is vital part to maintaining and restoring the health of our community, wider determinants, including the natural environment, have a profound impact on health outcomes and health equity. Pegasus also understands that poor quality environments and climate change have greater adverse impacts on the health and human rights of disadvantaged groups including children, indigenous peoples, older people and developing nations.

We endorse the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine's (NZCPHM's) Policy Statement on sustainability that states "a healthy environment is a key foundation for the health and wellbeing of people, and thus environmental sustainability is core to population health."¹ We also support NZCPHM's Climate Change Policy Statement that affirms the increasing risk of climate change to health and health equity.²

Pegasus appreciates the opportunity to support **Canterbury District Health Board's (DHB's) *Submission on Low Emissions Economy***, provided to inform the Productivity Commission's inquiry into how New Zealand could reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions through a transition towards a lower emissions future, while at the same time continuing to grow incomes and wellbeing.

We particularly appreciate Canterbury DHB's comments linking climate change and health, and that highlight the potential for significant opportunities to improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequities, through a transition to a lower-net emissions economy.

Kind regards



Mark Liddle
Acting CEO
Pegasus Health (Charitable) Ltd

¹ NZCPHM. 2017, "Sustainability - New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine Policy Statement."

² NZCPHM. 2017, "Climate change and Health in New Zealand. Climate Change Policy Statement."