

**Hon Stuart Nash** LLM, MMgt, MForSc

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Minister for Economic and Regional Development  
Minister of Forestry  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister of Tourism

22 JUN 2021

Rt Hon Simon Upton  
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Dear Simon,

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister on 21 May, 2021. Although the reduction of aviation emissions falls within the Transport Portfolio, the Prime Minister has asked me to answer your correspondence on her behalf because the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy falls within the Tourism Portfolio.

As you know, I'm currently exploring options around international border settings in conjunction with multiple other work programmes, including the creation of an Industry Transformation Plan and rebuilding the industry on a sustainable model. However, work on the exact settings, including any changes to the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy are still underway and no final decisions have been made.

Both of your reports have been pieces of outstanding work, that I and M BIE officials agree make strong and important conclusions. I understand MBIE contributed information and staff to support the development of both reports and there is strong alignment between the issues you identified and the New Zealand-Aotearoa Government Tourism Strategy.

I look forward to engaging with you, alongside my colleagues on this important work, to develop policy tools to reduce the impact of aviation emissions on the environment.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Prime Minister with further information on your departure tax proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash  
**Minister of Tourism**