



Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

28 March 2018

Dear Phil

I am writing to you to request information regarding actions your Ministry may be undertaking in response to climate change issues highlighted in *Our atmosphere and climate 2017*, published by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand under the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.

This request is made in relation to my role under this Act. As set out in Section 18, I have a broad role to comment on national state of the environment reports, which includes discussing implications of environmental reports and recommending responses to the findings contained within those reports.

Our atmosphere and climate 2017 makes very clear that New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions have increased markedly since 1990, with increases seen in almost all sectors of the economy. Most concerning, our net emissions have risen 64% over that period. This includes the road transport sector, where the report shows significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions since 1990.

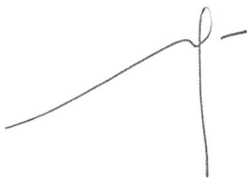
In light of this, could you please provide an outline of the policies, work programme, and any other initiatives the Ministry of Transport has in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport? In particular, could you please provide information on the following:

1. *What modelling has the Ministry done to estimate emissions of greenhouse gases from the transport sector under Business as Usual (BAU)?*
2. *What targets or goals, if any, has the Ministry set for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector?*
3. *What policies are recommended by the Ministry to achieve any targets or goals?*
4. *What work has the Ministry done to consider how to address barriers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the road transport sector?*
5. *What work has the Ministry done to consider how to address barriers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the broader transport sector?*
6. *What quantification has the Ministry made of the extent to which these policies would reduce emissions from the transport sector relative to BAU?*

7. *What work has the Ministry done to consider the opportunities and barriers to the uptake of alternative transport fuel types, including, inter alia, electricity, hydrogen and biofuels?*
8. *What is the Ministry's strategic approach to dealing with the risks that climate change poses to New Zealand's transport infrastructure? Is any work being done to estimate the cost of these risks?*
9. *What work has the Ministry done or is planning to do with other government agencies to address issues where greenhouse gas reductions require co-ordinated actions from multiple stakeholders?*
10. *What work has the Ministry done or is planning to do with other government agencies to address issues where adapting our transport systems to the impacts of climate change impact requires co-ordinated actions from multiple stakeholders?*

I would also welcome a meeting to discuss these issues with you following the reception of a reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal stroke followed by a vertical line that curves slightly to the right at the top.

Simon Upton
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

CC: Hon Julie Anne Genter; Hon Shane Jones; Jami-Lee Ross, MP; David Seymour, MP