



Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

28 March 2018

Dear Shane

I am writing to you to request information regarding actions the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment 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 contained information on significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions across the New Zealand economy since 1990. The report also highlighted a range of impacts from climate change that are either occurring now or will do so in the future.

Among the current or future impacts of climate change, the report highlights the threat that rising sea levels pose to South Dunedin. Although far from unique, the challenge facing South Dunedin illustrates that climate change will have significant and far-range consequences for our built environments.

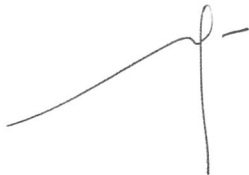
In light of these issues, could you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. *What work is the Ministry doing to ensure that planning for the on-going growth and development of the country's infrastructure incorporates climate **mitigation** aims and objectives?*
2. *What is the Ministry's strategic approach to dealing with the risks that climate change poses to New Zealand's infrastructure? Is any work being done to estimate the cost of these risks?*
3. *What work is the Ministry doing to ensure that our infrastructure can **adapt** in a timely and effective manner to the impacts of climate change?*
4. *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?*

5. *What work has the Ministry done or is planning to do with other government agencies to address issues where effective adaptation responses require 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: Jami-Lee Ross, MP; David Seymour, MP