



Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

28 March 2018

Dear Hon Dr Megan Woods

I am writing to you to request information regarding any actions your Ministry may be undertaking in response to climate change issues highlighted in the environmental report *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. Specifically, the report noted that between 1990 and 2015, emissions from manufacturing and construction have increased by 43%, and those from industrial processing and product use rose by 47%. The report also highlighted a range of impacts from climate change that are either occurring now or will do so in the future.

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

1. *What work has the Ministry done to identify what is driving the increases in energy sector emissions cited above and what might be done to reverse their upward trend?*
2. *What work has the Ministry done looking at what emission reductions from the energy sector are technically possible from existing technologies?*

3. *What work has the Ministry done looking at what emission reductions from the energy sector are technically possible from new or emerging technologies?*
4. *What quantification have you done to determine how much these technologies would reduce emissions from the energy sector relative to Business as Usual?*
5. *What barriers to increased energy efficiency within process heat production and use have been identified and what plans or actions are either in place or under consideration to address those barriers?*
6. *What barriers to increased use of renewable energy for process heat production and use have been identified and what plans or actions are either in place or under consideration to address those barriers?*
7. *What work is underway or planned to investigate the relationships between economic growth and emissions reductions, and where the opportunities to decouple these processes may lie?*

I look forward to hearing about the specific issues and responses the Ministry is focussed on. 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: Gareth Hughes, MP; David Seymour, MP; Jonathan Young, MP