

# Please Care for our Common Home



Religious Diversity Centre  
Aotearoa New Zealand

## Open Letter to all 2026 Political Leaders, Candidates and Officers of Parliament

**Initiated by the Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand and endorsed by the faith organisations, faith leaders and individuals listed below**

This letter asks political candidates of all parties and convictions to consider and address what is happening to our land and people. It particularly focuses on climate change.

**Why is climate action needed?** Warming of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans has occurred since around 1900, leading to rapidly changing climate globally. These changes are unmatched since the beginning of human civilisation and pose grave risks to human flourishing and survival.<sup>1</sup> Climate change cannot be disregarded, globally or in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ).

NZ's recent National Climate Change Risk Assessment states: 'Climate change is increasingly affecting the core systems in Aotearoa NZ: the essentials that keep daily life running; the wellbeing of communities; the natural environment that nurtures life and livelihoods; and the way the country plans, decides and acts together.' Very many New Zealanders have directly experienced storm and erosion impacts connected to climate change in the last decade. The key infrastructure risks are to water, buildings, road and rail (mostly from flooding and fire). There are also high risks to ecosystems, biodiversity, forestry, personal, social and community wellbeing, and our capacity for emergency management.<sup>2</sup> Adverse weather events increase our insurance premiums, recovery and other costs, and our capacity to manage emergencies.<sup>3</sup> Other significant impacts include heatstroke especially for outdoor workers, the elderly and infants; spread of tropical diseases; homelessness; and food and energy security. We are particularly concerned about mental health issues such as depression and a sense of hopelessness among children and youth.<sup>4</sup>

Climate science is unequivocal that warming of the atmosphere and oceans, leading to adverse climate change, is a result of human activity, particularly burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas)<sup>5</sup> which produce greenhouse gases (GHGs).<sup>6</sup> Globally, we will soon overshoot the 1.5 degrees temperature guardrail,<sup>7</sup> so we need to achieve net zero GHG emissions as soon as possible; and then in order to cool the atmosphere and limit the duration of any temperature overshoot, we will need to achieve net negative GHG emissions for many decades, for the sake of future generations.<sup>8</sup>

NZ's *per capita* GHG emissions are amongst the highest of all OECD countries, even though our *total* GHG emissions are relatively low because of our small population.<sup>9</sup> While many individuals, councils, and institutions have made meaningful progress in reducing GHG emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, collectively these efforts have fallen well short of what is required.<sup>10</sup>

**Strong national leadership on climate change is urgently needed.** This action includes both mitigation (stopping and reversing global warming by reducing global GHGs) and adaptation (policies and actions that reduce vulnerability from expected impacts of climate change<sup>11</sup>). Both national and local Government can help us live up to our reputation of 'clean green' NZ. A famous Biblical teaching reminds us that "Where there is no vision, the people perish."<sup>12</sup>

NZ recently voted at the United Nations to endorse the 2025 International Court of Justice's unanimous advisory opinion declaring that countries have binding legal obligations to protect the global climate system

and prevent environmental harm from GHG emissions.<sup>13</sup> Failure to act is likely to jeopardise our international credibility and our trading relationships.<sup>14</sup>

**Faith community and indigenous perspectives.** We recognise and respect the diversity of faiths practiced in our country, and of differing political views held by people of faith. Our faith and spiritual traditions – including those of Māori – teach that the natural world is of sacred importance, that all within it are interconnected, and that it is the duty of all humankind to care for the Earth. In turn, the Earth provides us with everything we need.

Concepts such as ‘oneness with nature’ and ‘stewardship of the Earth’s resources’ are expressed in the teachings of all faiths. Many faiths affirm that humans are part of a broader world and urge us to consider the ethical and spiritual dimensions of how humans are meant to relate to each other and the natural world - drawing on culture, family, community, religion, and respect for the common good.<sup>15</sup>

Climate action is a critical aspect of partnership under te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi). Māori people and communities are among the most seriously affected by climate-related impacts, while many cultural sites of significance to iwi/Māori sit in places now highly exposed to climate hazards.

**Our recommendations to politicians.** We are bound morally, legally and reputationally to play our part in slowing the rate of global climate warming. However, NZ may not be on track to meet its first or second Nationally Determined Contribution (of net GHG emissions reductions) under the Paris Agreement<sup>16</sup> and the government has announced that it will not purchase offshore emissions credits to meet any emissions gap.<sup>17</sup> Hence, we will probably breach our international obligations.<sup>18</sup> *Therefore, we call on all candidates and political parties to take a thoughtful and responsible approach to climate change and environmental policies,* placing the health of all people, communities, future generations, and Earth itself, at the heart of their governance, policy and planning decisions in this era of increasingly unpredictable and damaging climate events.

***We urge you to work with your party and across parties to address legal and international climate action obligations:***

- Ensure that our first and second Nationally Determined Contributions to net GHG emissions reduction are fulfilled as a minimum.
- Assist small Pacific Island states, our constitutionally related neighbours, who bear the brunt of a crisis for which they are not responsible.<sup>19</sup>
- Accept that NZ, relative to most other countries, should take a higher responsibility for reducing global carbon emissions.<sup>20</sup>

***In particular, we invite all political parties to improve our people’s lives by:***

- Maintaining our natural environment in a healthy functioning state. In this way it can not only support all of life and much of our economy, but also naturally absorb atmospheric carbon to the greatest extent possible.<sup>21</sup>
- Reducing NZ’s dependence on fossil fuels by: (1) discouraging excessive energy consumption at all levels; (2) encouraging energy efficiency; and (3) incentivising the ongoing transition to renewable energy, especially in solar and wind energy and in private and public transport.<sup>22</sup>
- Reducing methane emissions from our agricultural sector. This is critical to more rapid reductions in GHG emissions overall.<sup>23</sup>
- Incentivising electrification of transport, homes, and as much industry as possible.
- Promoting key climate-friendly industries such as low emissions tourism, regenerative agriculture and many of our international service industries.
- Ensuring that the NZ Superannuation fund has minimal exposure to high emissions industries.<sup>24</sup>
- Implementing measures that address mental health issues resulting from climate change.

- Ensuring that economic development policies recognise the opportunities presented by the challenges summarised above. *'The transition to a low emissions society and adaptation to our changing climate is not just a necessity, it is a vast opportunity for each of us. It is in our own self-interest to embrace the change.'*<sup>25</sup>
- Ensuring that the costs of NZ's ongoing transition towards a fossil-fuel free future are borne fairly and equitably now and not just left to future generations.
- Providing adequate funding for local research and development, also public education on climate change.

***We also invite all political parties to:***

- Develop a comprehensive, equitable and cost-effective national climate adaptation plan.<sup>26</sup>
- Develop policies to ensure that the costs and negative impacts of adaptation including potential relocation of communities are distributed fairly.
- Fund and support national resilience programmes in addition to cleaning up after individual climate and flooding disasters.

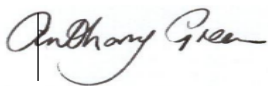
The above suggestions have many benefits additional to their impacts on climate. Good mitigation actions will: help reduce our dependence on imported fuels; save on foreign exchange; achieve cleaner air and water and more liveable cities; and support individual and population health. Fair and cost-effective adaptation policies will reduce negative impacts and long-term economic, societal and ecological costs of climate change. In particular they will enhance the resilience of many types of infrastructure; help us face threats to health including the prevalence, spread, and severity of many diseases, and mental health challenges including anxiety; and improve food and water security as the world warms.

In conclusion, we remember that NZ has led the world before – think women getting the vote; brokering international responsibilities; nuclear-free policies – and we can do it again. Let's work together on this wicked problem.

Thank you for reading this and carefully considering our suggestions.



**Jenny te Paa Daniel** PhD, Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand (RDC) Co-Chair



**Anthony Green**, RDC Co-Chair



**Richard J. Milne** PhD, RDC Climate Action Group lead author



**Paul Blaschke** PhD, RDC Climate Action Group convenor and co-author

15 September 2026

*Endorsements start next page...*

## Endorsed by the following faith organisations, faith leaders and individuals:

*Note: These endorsements are listed in order of receipt. Where it is clear they have been sent by individuals on behalf of a faith-related organisation, the endorsement is listed under that organisation; otherwise it is listed by individual name. Some individual endorsers have chosen not to show their affiliation.*

1. Bishop Peter Cullinane, Bishop Emeritus of Palmerston North Catholic Diocese
2. Rabbi JoEllen Duckor, Temple Sinai (Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation)
3. Rev. Dorothy Brooker, Hawkes Bay Interfaith Council
4. Catherine Gibbs, Administrator of Food for Faith online Christian ministry, retired co-director of the National Liturgy Office and former lecturer for Te Kupenga - Catholic Theological College
5. Diane Bellamy, Dunedin, Psychologist & Member of Dunedin Interfaith Council
6. Mons. Gerard Burns, Vicar-General, Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington
7. Kumar Kumareswaran, Rural Village Service Coordinator for Satha Sai Global Council (Unity of Faiths) Zone 3 (Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands)
8. Julie Randall, New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations and Chairperson of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Climate Action Group
9. Rev. Dr. Jenny Dawson, Anglican priest, Anglican Diocese of Christchurch: Chaplaincy, Climate Change, Interfaith, Social Justice, Women's Spirituality
10. Dr. Mary Betz, Ecologist, Theologian and Writer.
11. Dave Moskovitz, Wellington Abrahamic Council
12. Dr. John Waldon, Palmerston North Diocesan Commission for Justice, Peace, Development and Ecology
13. Rev. Richard Noble, priest, Anglican Diocese of Wellington
14. Rev. Dr. Neil Vaney, spiritual mentor and guide
15. Leigh Scott, Amitabha Buddhist Centre and Member of the Palmerston North Interfaith Group
16. New Zealand Christians in Science: Dr Nicola Hoggard, Director
17. Anjun Rahman DCA MNZM, Founder of Tāhono Trust, formerly Inclusive Aotearoa
18. Kaiwhaiki Kaunihera o Nga Paerangi, Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui River, Whanganui: Makareta Tawaroa
19. Fr. Peter Healy SM, Te Whānau Pukekaraka, Ōtaki
20. Ibrar Sheik, President, FIANZ, Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand
21. Rev. John Howell, Presbyterian Minister
22. Beate Matthies and Ram Lingam, Co-Chairs, Auckland Inter-Faith Council
23. Mike Stone, St. Brigid's Climate Action Group
24. Dr James Renwick, Professor of Climate Science & Physical Geography, Te Kura Tātai Aro Whenua School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
25. Rebecca Packer, Chief Executive, Sisters of Compassion Group Limited
26. Rabbi Dean Shapiro, Beth Shalom, The Progressive Jewish Community of Auckland
27. Susan Smith, RNDM, PhD, Lecturer Emerita, The University of Auckland
28. The Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation (Temple Sinai): Richard Stein, MD, Board Chair
29. Sara Kindon, Professor, Human Geography and Development Studies, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
30. Noelene Landrigan, Sisters of St. Joseph Ecology Mission Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui River, Whanganui
31. Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Palmerston North, Joanne Wilson
32. Kenric Ma, General Director, Soka Gakkai International of New Zealand (SGINZ)
33. Suzanne Mahon (Mrs), CEO / Secretary, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of New Zealand Te Rūnanga Wairua Tapu o ngā Bahá'í o Aotearoa
34. Rachel Bolstad, New Zealand chapter lead, Tikkun Hayam - Repair the Sea Jewish Marine Conservation
35. A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand: Dr. Nicola Hoggard, Chair
36. Rev Dr Alfred Tong, Member of the Integral Ecology Committee of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Priest, Assistant Parish Priest of Te Ngākau Tapu and St Francis of Assisi Ōhāriu Parishes, Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington.
37. Rev Suivaáia Teó, Wesley Wellington Methodist Parish

38. Dr. Viola Palmer, Quaker Conservationist, Kapiti
39. Wayne Buck, Principal, Wayne Buck Consulting
40. Sr. Catherine Jones, Former Chair of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations, Waikanae
41. Regina Scheyvens, Professor of International Development, Massey University
42. Maree Diamond, Chair, Care of Creation Group, Catholic Parish of Napier
43. Rev. Dr. Tim McKenzie, Vicar, St Michael's Anglican Church, Kelburn
44. Dr. Jean Hera, Environment Network Manawatu, Manawatu
45. Beth Lew, Secretary, Palmerston North Interfaith Group
46. Rev. Neti Petaia, Superintendent, Lower North Island Synod, Methodist Church of New Zealand
47. Associate Professor Bronwyn Wood, Faculty of Education, Health and Psychological Sciences, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
48. Anna Smith, Sustainability Group, St Andrews on The Terrace, Wellington
49. Susan Apathy, retired Deputy CEO of New Zealand Catholic Education Office
50. Gerry and Elizabeth Lew, Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i Palmerston North
51. The Very Reverend Katie Lawrence, Anglican Dean of Wellington
52. Rev. James Consedine, Catholic Worker Otautahi Christchurch
53. Professor Chris Eames, School of Education, University of Waikato
54. Ann L Gilroy rsj, Editor, Tui Motu InterIsland Magazine, independent Catholic monthly
55. EJ Barrett, member of the TAARTAN steering group of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia (Te Ara Aroha: Rainbow Takataapui Allies Network) and Councillor at New Plymouth District Council
56. Good Shepherd NZ, partner in mission: Roseanne Leota Executive Assistant and Tania Pouwhare (Ngāi Tūhoe) Chief Executive
57. New Zealand Buddhist Council Executive Committee: Derek LeDayn, Dharmasena Maddugoda, Robert Hunt, Wilhelmina Flick, Peter Small, Jun Kim, Suchavadee Takdhada
58. Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Carrell, Bishop, Diocese of Christchurch, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
59. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri: Sue Stover and Carrie Barber, co-clerks of the Yearly Meeting
60. The Palmerston North Diocesan Commission for Justice, Peace, Development and Ecology: Benjamin Schmidt, Chair.
61. Ralph E. H. Sims CNZM CRSNZ, Professor Emeritus, Sustainable Energy and Climate Mitigation, Massey University, Palmerston North
62. Rev Dr Douglas Pratt, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Upper Clutha Anglican Parish, Honorary Professor, Theological and Religious Studies, University of Auckland, Associate Researcher, Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics, University of St Andrews, Scotland, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, School of Philosophy, Theology & Religion, University of Birmingham, England, Adjunct Professor (emeritus), Faculty of Theology, University of Bern, Switzerland
63. Margaret Sinclair- Jones, Palmerston North Interfaith Group
64. Gerry Lew, Palmerston North Interfaith Group
65. Bob Skipp PhD, Founding Member of Palmerston North Interfaith Group
66. Mary-Elizabeth Bayliss, Supporter of the Wellington Catholic Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission
67. Sikh Council of New Zealand [NZBN: 9429043138135]: Verpal Singh, Secretary
68. Sikh Centre New Zealand [NZBN: 9429043159758]: Verpal Singh, Chairman
69. Mandira Shailaj, Hindu, Policy & Project Advisor for government
70. Hazim Arafeh, Manawatu Muslim Association
71. Ricky Waters, Executive Director, The Religious Diversity Centre in Aotearoa New Zealand
72. Helene Doyle, Justice and Peace Group of the Catholic parish of New Plymouth
73. Sunlou Liuvaie, Papaioea Pasifika Community Trust, Palmerston North, and Niue Community Palmerston North
74. Rev. Tom Lawn, priest, Catholic parish of New Plymouth
75. Paul Bayliss, former General Manager of the Archdiocese of Wellington
76. Bishop Richard Randerson CNZM
77. Common Grace Aotearoa: Alex Johnston, Co-Director

78. Sajjad Naqvi, Islamic Council of New Zealand (ICONZ)
79. Wibha Desai, Hindu Environmentalist, Palmerston North
80. Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington's Ecology Justice and Peace Commission: Jim McAloon, Chair
81. Archbishop Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
82. Murray Mills, retired Bishop of Waiapu
83. Todd Nachowitz PhD, Executive Director of the EarthDiverse Trust
84. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, DNZM, QSO, former MP and Labour Party spokesperson for Pacific Island Affairs and for interfaith dialogue, former Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington
85. Rev Chris Frazer, Deacon for Social Justice, The Anglican Diocese of Wellington
86. Bishop Tom Brown (retired)
87. Maria Cash, Wellington
88. Michael Dooley, Catholic Bishop of Dunedin
89. D.G. (David) McCrone, Wellington, former member Ephesus Group, Wellington
90. Jeanette Brunton, Ngaio Union Church, Wellington
91. Helen Chong, former president National Council of Women Manawatu branch and foundation member Palmerston North Interfaith Group
92. Murray Jansen (Dr), Titahi Bay, Porirua
93. Ian Harris, concerned citizen and member of Tawa Union Church, Wellington
94. Philippa Fletcher, Member and Climate Correspondent, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri
95. Jean Brouwer, Knox Church Otautahi Christchurch, Church Council Clerk
96. Dr. Colin McCleod, Chair, The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations
97. Dunedin Interfaith Council: Dr. Colin McCleod, Chair
98. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand: Mena Antonio, Chief Executive/Kaiwhakahaere Matua
99. Vicki Steele, Senior Advisor, Porirua and member, St Andrews on the Terrace, Wellington
100. Professor David Tombs, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago
101. Vivienne Mountier, retired child and adolescent psychiatrist, member of St Andrew's on The Terrace, Wellington
102. Skye Sloper, Glenview, Hamilton
103. Therese Lautua PhD, Lecturer in Indigenous Studies | Pūkenga, University of Otago – Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka
104. Bishop Ross Bay, OStJ, QSM, Anglican Bishop of Auckland
105. The Right Reverend Justin Duckworth, Bishop of Wellington
106. Dr Terry Pouono, Pacific Lecturer in Theology, University of Otago – Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka
107. Gray Southon, United Nations Society of New Zealand, Hamilton
108. Auckland Zen Centre: Roshi Amala Wrightson, Director
109. Trashy Gomang Buddhist Centre: Russell Shipman, Trustee
110. The Korean Buddhist Society of Myosimsa: Junghye Anh, Representative to NZBC
111. Wat Yarnprateep: Phra Nitis Uraivan, Temple Secretary
112. Dhargyey Buddhist Centre: Peter Small, Chairperson
113. Mahamevnawa Dhamma Circle: Sachintana Dissanayake, Secretary
114. The Dhammaprateep Buddhist Trust: Phra Wanchai Darachai, Resident Monk and Head Administrative Officer
115. New Zealand Sri Lanka Buddhist Trust: Mr Dharmasena Maddugoda, Representative to NZBC
116. Trashy Ganden Choepel Ling Trust: Shiong-Ming Low, Chairman/Director
117. Dhamma Gavesi Meditation Centre: Bhante Jinalankara, Abbot / President, Wellington.
118. United Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Auckland: Most Venerable Thich Truong Sanh - President, Venerable Thich Huyen Tho - Treasurer, Danny Tran - Treasurer, Britney Kieu - Secretary
119. Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau Insight Meditation: Jill Shepherd, Guiding Teacher
120. Pathumrungsiwatanaram Buddhist Trust: Chayapol Saipanya, Chairperson

121. Devachan Charitable Trust: Kalsang Tashi, Acārya; Sue-Wen Chang, Trustee; Marc Talloen, Trustee
122. Southern Insight Meditation: Meg Kilvington, Trustee
123. Amitabha Hospice Service: Claire Barton, CEO
124. Green Mountain Zen: Shinko Squire, Roshi
125. The Cambodian Association (Auckland) Incorporated: Piseth Keo, General Secretary
126. Triratna Buddhist Community: Aryasuri, Chairperson of Thames Buddhist Centre
127. Venerable Amala Wrightson Roshi, Auckland
128. Venerable Thubten Gyaltzen
129. Venerable Sumana Siri, Auckland
130. Mrs Drolma/Sandra Simpson
131. Mrs Catherine Vovna, Hamilton
132. Gamini Settinayake, Wellington
133. Dr Sally McAra, Social Anthropologist and Health Coach
134. Janice Hill, Wellington
135. Annie McMullen, NZ Buddhist hospice/healthcare Chaplain
136. Arthur Wells Roshi
137. Ms. M Jane Ross, Christchurch
138. Ms. Michelle Chia
139. Glenn Wallis Roshi, Dunedin
140. Ms Marion Sallis
141. Dharmacharini Akasamati
142. Graeme Cleaver, Buddhist Chaplain
143. Venerable Yarang Mom, Wellington
144. Satyadevi Barrett, Wellington
145. Suryagita (Juliet Cox), member of the Triratna Buddhist Community, Wellington
146. Rev. Dr Neil Darragh, Catholic parish of Devonport, Auckland
147. The Very Rev'd Dr Tony Curtis SCP, Anglican Dean of Dunedin
148. Reverend Grace Behm, Curate, St Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland.
149. Wellington Interfaith Council: Manish Kaushik | मनीष कौशिक, Chair
150. Dr. Mary Nash, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North
151. Congregation of St Andrews on the Terrace, Wellington: Rev Dr Feiloaiga (Fei) Taule'ale'ausuma, Minister
152. David Zwartz ONZM, BSc (NZ), former President of the New Zealand Jewish Council and co-founder of the Wellington Interfaith Council
153. Rev. Silvia Purdie, Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ, Upper Hutt
154. Catherine Leining, international climate policy expert, Wellington
155. Green Task Force, All Saints' Parish, Palmerston North: Barbara Arnold, Robert Gibb, Rev. John Hornblow, Jenny Hornblow, Kirsten Holst, Becky and Paul Demchick, Keith Young, Rev'd Hm Graham-Michael OSBC
156. Dr Richard Egan, Associate Professor, Public Health, University of Otago, Dunedin
157. Waikato Interfaith Council: Co-Presidents Asif Munir and Todd Miller
158. Dr Mary Eastham, Trustee, The Religious Diversity Centre in Aotearoa New Zealand and member, The Palmerston North Commission for Justice, Peace, Development and Ecology

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> As reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading international body for assessing climate science <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/reports-and-evidence/publications/2026-national-climate-change-risk-assessment/>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/national-risk-assessment-nra>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2542519621002783?via%3Dihub>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>
- <sup>6</sup> Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are gases in Earth's atmosphere—such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)—that trap heat in the atmosphere.
- <sup>7</sup> Temperatures are measured against the global average from the pre-industrial era (1850–1900), before humanity began heavily burning fossil fuels.
- <sup>8</sup> Climate overshoot is a scenario where global average temperatures temporarily exceed a specified climate target, such as the 1.5°C threshold set by the Paris Agreement. <https://www.overshootcommission.org/overshoot>
- <sup>9</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/greenhouse-gas-emissions/greenhouse-gas-emissions-per-capita/>
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/> and <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/new-zealand/>
- <sup>11</sup> Climate change impacts that particularly need adaptation responses in NZ include more severe floods and droughts, sea-level rise, changes in biodiversity and biosecurity, loss of homes and buildings food and water insecurity <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change/national->
- <sup>12</sup> From the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament (Proverbs, 29:18)
- <sup>13</sup> On 20 May 2026, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly (including NZ) endorsed the 2025 International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on climate change. The resolution solidifies binding international legal obligations for countries to prevent and repair climate harm. <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/new-zealand-explanation-of-vote-on-un-general-assembly-resolution-on-icj-climate-change-advisory-opinion>
- <sup>14</sup> <https://theconversation.com/a-lack-of-ambition-over-livestock-emissions-targets-now-threatens-nzs-reputation-and-trade>
- <sup>15</sup> Milne RJ, et al. (2025). *E tū te mana o te Ao - building a climate of hope: faith and action guide*. Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand. ISBN: 978-0-473-75801-1. Also available on-line at <https://rdc.org.nz/rdc-climate-action-group/>
- <sup>16</sup> Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are country-specific climate action plans to reduce net GHG emissions. NZ's first NDC sets a target of a 50% reduction of emissions below our 2005 level by 2030. New Zealand's second NDC is to reduce emissions by 51-55% compared to 2005, by 2035. <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/nationally-determined-contribution/>.
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/environment/climate/596633/budget-2026-no-money-committed-to-meeting-paris-agreement->
- <sup>18</sup> The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has expressed concerns about the achievement of both NDC targets, and the proposed policy mix. <https://pce.parliament.nz/publications/submission-on-amendment-to-new-zealand-s-second-emissions-reduction-plan-erp2-2026-30/>; and <https://pce.parliament.nz/publications/commentary-on-govt-response-to-ccc-emissions-monitoring-report/>
- <sup>19</sup> Small Pacific island nations are especially vulnerable to climate change, including sea-level rise, rising ocean temperatures and salinity, and increasing climate variability. Climate change is recognised as the single greatest threat faced by the Pacific. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/joint-statement-australia%E2%80%93new-zealand-foreign-and-defence> /NZ commitment to assisting Pacific countries. <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/environment/climate-change/supporting-our-region>
- <sup>20</sup> <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/new-zealand/> and <https://www.wri.org/ndcs>
- <sup>21</sup> A wide range of natural environments on land, underground and in our freshwaters and oceans buffer against climate impacts, by absorbing greenhouse gases, soaking up floodwaters and providing natural barriers to storm effects. Our natural environment supports gross domestic product (GDP), agriculture, technology, tourism, and other export incomes.
- <sup>22</sup> Over half of NZ's energy needs are still provided by fossil fuels (<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-statistics-and-modelling/energy-publications-and-technical-papers/energy-in-new-zealand/energy-in-new-zealand-2025/overview>). Transport is the biggest energy user, mostly of diesel and petrol (<https://times.bec.org.nz>). Solar power now provides the cheapest electricity in history.
- <sup>23</sup> Methane is responsible for about 50% of NZ's near-term global warming. Methane traps radiation far more efficiently than CO<sub>2</sub> but because it lingers in the atmosphere for only about 12 years, reducing it has a rapid cooling effect. Most methane emissions in NZ result from farming cattle and sheep. <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>
- <sup>24</sup> Howell R. (2017). *Investing in People and The Planet*. ISBN: 978-0-473-38418-0
- <sup>25</sup> <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/news/the>
- <sup>26</sup> <https://environment.govt.nz/news/independent-climate-adaptation-report-released/>