Timeline of climate-related policy (institutions, legislation, international commitments, instruments and Conference of Parties)



Title Working paper 2021/01 – Timeline of climate-related policy (institutions, legislation,

international commitments, instruments and Conference of Parties)

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The aim of this research paper is to better understand the different eras associated with climate change and how this history has impacted on Aotearoa New Zealand's climate-related policy since 1980. In this regard, the Institute has developed a timeline that maps the history of climate-related policy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This paper is a situational report, simply recording what has occurred prior. This paper will contribute to an evidence base that the Institute will use to develop core assumptions that will influence and develop the narrative underpinning future ClimateChangeNZ research – namely Report 18: Climate Change Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand. We aim to identify where Aotearoa New Zealand has come from to develop inclusive and actionable ways forward.

1.2 Background to Project ClimateChangeNZ

This working paper forms part of Project *ClimateChangeNZ*, which is one of the Institute's seven research projects and has the overall aim of exploring what an actionable and inclusive climate strategy would look like for Aotearoa. This working paper follows on from previous *ClimateChangeNZ* publications:

- Working Paper 2019/05 Reviewing Voluntary Reporting Frameworks Mentioned in 2017 and 2018 Annual Reports
- Working Paper 2019/06 Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors
- Working Paper 2020/04 Analysis of Climate Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors
- Working Paper 2020/05 Reviewing Voluntary Reporting Frameworks mentioned in 2019 Annual Reports
- Working Paper 2020/09 A Forestry-Centric Investigation of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme

In 2021, we hope to publish a number of research reports, and a more comprehensive *Project 2058* report on climate change in 2022. Essentially, this series of papers (listed below) will act as our evidence base, which will develop our thinking and recommendations in response to all of the climate-related work that is unfolding this year. The results will be brought together and published in the *Project 2058* report. The papers in this series are:

- 1. Working Paper 2021/01 Timeline of Climate Change Institutions and Instruments since 1980.
- 2. Working Paper 2021/03 Analysis of Climate Change in Government Department Strategies as at 31 December 2020
- 3. Working Paper 2021/04 Reviewing Voluntary Reporting Frameworks Mentioned in 2018–2020 Annual Reports
- 4. Working Paper 2021/06 Reviewing TCFD information in 2017–2020 Annual Reports of NZSX-listed companies
- 5. Working Paper 2021/07 Scoping the use of the term 'climate scenarios' and other climate-related terms in Aotearoa New Zealand and international literature
- Working Paper 2021/09 Analysis of Climate Change Reporting in the Public and Private Sectors
- 7. Discussion Paper 2021/04 An Accounting Dilemma: Does a commitment to purchase offshore carbon credits create a requirement to disclose that obligation in the financial statements of the New Zealand Government?
- 8. Discussion Paper 2022/02 Accounting for natural GHG emissions, such as wildfires and volcanic eruptions (working title)

2.0 Methodology

The following methodology explains the research process and structure of this paper.

2.1 Timeline characteristics and context

In the context of this paper, 'climate-related policy' refers to the following components of public policy:

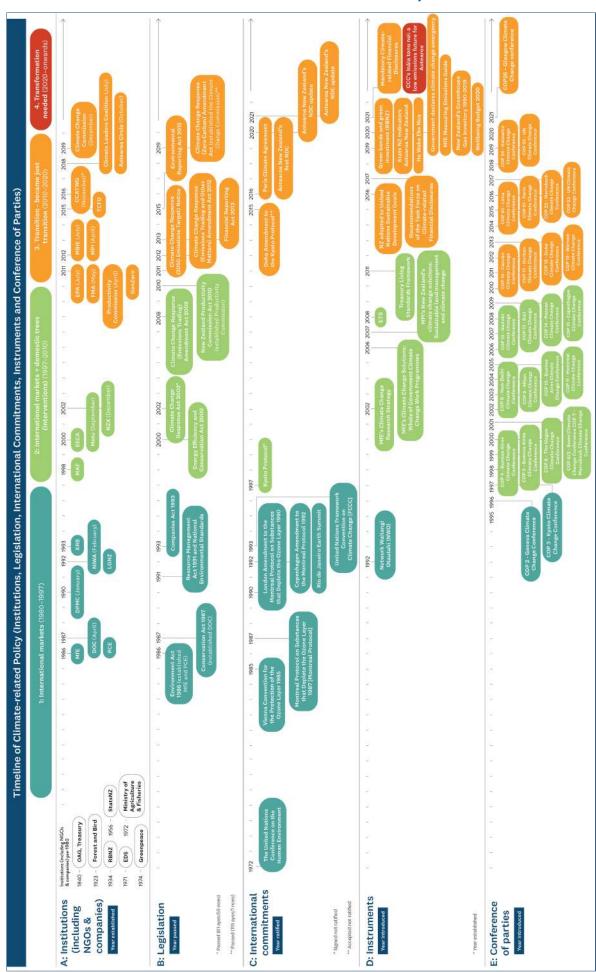
- a. Institutions (including NGOs and companies)
- b. Legislation
- c. International commitments
- d. Instruments
- e. The Conference of the Parties (COP)

The Institute aimed to identify how climate-related policy had developed through each era of societal awareness and discourse around climate change. The titles that have been used in the timeline aim to reflect such societal shifts of awareness.

The following timeframes were developed to identify (at a high level) the different eras of climate-related policy in Aotearoa New Zealand. These are:

- 1. International markets (1980–1997) [dark green]
- 2. International markets + domestic trees (interventions) (1997–2010) [light green]
- 3. Transition became just transition (2010–2020) [orange]
- 4. Transformation needed (2020–onwards) [red]

3.0 Timeline of Climate-related Policy



Endnotes

- A: Institutions (Including NGOs & companies) (Year established)
- 1986: See the Environment Act 1986, s 28. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html
- 1987: See the Conservation Act 1987, s 5. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html
- 1987: See the Environment Act 1986, s 4. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html
- 1990: See Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matua. (9 January 2017). Our history. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://dpmc.govt.nz/about-dpmc/our-history
- 1992: See NIWA Taihoro Nukurangi. (n.d.). *Our company*. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://niwa.co.nz/about/our-company
- 1992: See the Local Government Amendment Act 1992. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1992/0042/1.0/whole.html
- 1993: See External Reporting Board XRB. Te Kāwai Ārahi Pūrongo Mōwaho. (2021). Who we are. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.xrb.govt.nz/about-xrb/who-we-are
- 1998: See Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Manatū Ahu Matua. (14 July 2021). MPI's story. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/our-story
- 2000: See the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000, s 20. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0014/latest/DLM54948.html
- 2002: See Motu. (n.d.). History. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.motu.nz/about-us/history
- 2002: See NZX. (2021). *History of the New Zealand exchange*. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.nzx.com/about-nzx/organization-structure/overview
- 2011: See the Environmental Protection Authority Act 2011, s 7. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2011/0014/latest/DLM3366813.html
- 2011: See Financial Markets Authority (FMA) Te Mana Tatai Hokohoko New Zealand. (24 June 2021). *About Us.* Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.fma.govt.nz/about-us
- 2011: See Te Tai Ōhanga The Treasury. (n.d.). New Zealand Productivity Commission. Retrieved 30

 November 2021 from https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/commercial-portfolio-and-advice/commercial-portfolio/new-zealand-productivity-commission
- 2011: See Generation Zero. (8 May 2019). Generation Zero celebrates Zero Carbon Act announcement [press release]. Scoop. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1905/S00096/generation-zero-celebrates-zero-carbon-act-announcement.htm
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- 2012: See Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Manatū Ahu Matua. (14 July 2021). MPI's story. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/our-story
- 2015: See United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative. (n.d.). TCFD Task Force On

- Climate-Related Financial Disclosures. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.unepfi.org/climate-change/tcfd
- 2016: See Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Manatū Mo Te Taiao. (4 May 2021). Climate change adaptation technical working group. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change/climate-change-adaptation-technical-working-group
- 2018: See Climate Leaders Coalition On a Mission to Reduce Emissions in New Zealand. (n.d.). *About*. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.climateleaderscoalition.org.nz/about
- 2018: See The Aotearoa Circle. (19 October 2019). *Media Release: The Aotearoa Circle*. Retrieved 30 November 2021 https://www.theaotearoacircle.nz/news/2018/10/18/new-zealand-leaders-stand-together-in-shared-responsibility-for-long-term-investment-in-our-natural-resources
- 2019: See He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission. (n.d.). *Statement of Intent 2020 2024*. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/who-we-are/corporate-publications/statement-of-intent-2/statement-of-intent

B: Legislation (Year passed)

- 1986: See the Environment Act 1986, ss 4 & 28. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html
- 1987: See the Conservation Act 1987, s 5. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html
- 1991: See the Resource Management Act 1991, subs 1. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html
- 1993: See the Companies Act 1993. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0105/latest/DLM319570.html
- 2000: See the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0014/latest/DLM54948.html
- 2002: See the Climate Change Response Act 2002. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0040/latest/versions.aspx
- 2008: See the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008. Retrieved 18
 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0085/latest/DLM1130932.html
- 2010: See the New Zealand Productivity Commission Act 2010, pt 2. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2010/0136/latest/DLM3104306.html
- 2011: See The New Zealand Gazette. (31 March 2011). *The Climate Change Response (2050 Emissions Target) Notice 2011.* Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2011-go2067
- 2012: See the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2012. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0089/latest/DLM4676517.html
- 2013: See the Financial Reporting Act 2013. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2013/0101/latest/DLM4632829.html
- 2015: See the Environmental Reporting Act 2015. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0087/latest/DLM5941105.html

2019: See the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, subs 1. Retrieved 18

November 2021 from https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2019/0061/latest/LMS183736.

html

C: International commitments (Year ratified)

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 June 1972, Stockholm. Retrieved 18 November 2021 from https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/stockholm1972
- 1985: See United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (30 August 2021). International Treaties and Cooperation about the Protection of the Stratospheric Ozone Layer. Retrieved 30 November 2021 from https://www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/international-treaties-and-cooperation-about-protection-stratospheric-ozone#: ~:text = The%20London%20Amendment%20(1990)Exit,by%20 2010%20in%20developing%20countries
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D: Instruments (Year introduced)

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E: Conference of parties (Year introduced)

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