



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

McGuinness Institute title:
[CBC-20-MIN-0097] Climate
Change Emergency and a Whole-
of-Government Response

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Climate Change Emergency and a Whole-of-Government Response

Portfolios **Prime Minister / Climate Change**

On 2 December 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-20-MIN-0497]:

- 1 **noted** that the scientific consensus represented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on 1.5 degrees of warming states that failure to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius will result in a range of risks to the ecology, society, and economy, and that there are likely to be irreversible impacts;
- 2 **agreed** that climate change requires decisive action by all levels of government, the private sector, and communities;
- 3 **authorised** the Prime Minister and the Minister of Climate Change to declare a climate change emergency in New Zealand, by making a public announcement on 2 December 2020;
- 4 **noted** that a declaration of a climate change emergency is not the same as a declaration of a state of emergency under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002;
- 5 **agreed** that climate change be regarded as having a level of equivalence to a civil defence emergency in that it demands a sufficiently ambitious, urgent, and coordinated response across government to meet the scale and complexity of the challenge;
- 6 **directed** the Climate Change Chief Executives Board to implement the remaining commitments in the Climate Action Plan as a priority, and to regularly report on progress to their respective Ministers;
- 7 **noted** the intention to put the climate at the centre of government decision-making;
- 8 **agreed** to the establishment of a Climate Response Ministerial Group, chaired by the Prime Minister, to oversee, co-ordinate, drive, and ensure the timely and effective delivery of the climate change work programme;

- 9 **invited** the Prime Minister and the Minister of Climate Change to report back to Cabinet in March 2021 with more detailed proposals on the role of the Climate Response Ministerial Group and governance arrangements for Public Service agencies to support the whole-of-government response to climate change.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Poto Williams (part of item)
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan (part of item)
Hon James Shaw

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Minister of Climate Change