

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019

This amendment Act provides a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies.

Last updated: 5 April 2021

Climate change

Full text

[Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019](#) [New Zealand Legislation website]

Amends

[Climate Change Response Act 2002](#) [New Zealand Legislation website]

What the amendment Act does

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 provides a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that:

- contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels

- allow New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.

The changes do four key things:

- set a new domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for New Zealand to:
 - reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
 - reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030
- establish a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target
- require the Government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- establish a new, independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals. See the [Climate Change Commission website](#) .

The original proposal was for a separate piece of legislation called the Zero Carbon Bill to be passed into law. In May 2019, the Government decided to introduce it as an amendment to the Climate Change Response Act 2002. The objective was to ensure that all key climate legislation is within one Act.

Documents prepared during the development of the Act

Climate Change Response Zero Carbon Amendment Bill: Summary **(/publications/climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill-summary/)**

01 May 2019

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill sets the framework for New Zealand's transition to a low emissions and climate resilient economy. We've listened to...

Publication

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Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction - Minute **(/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill-approval-for-introduction-minute/)**

01 May 2019

Reference number: CAB-19-MIN-0208

Cabinet Minute

Hon James Shaw

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Climate Change Chief Executives Board – Advice on a new 2050 emissions reduction target **(/publications/climate-change-chief-executives-board-advice-on-a-new-2050-emissions-reduction-target/)**

01 May 2019

Date of briefing: 21 November 2018

Publication

Briefing note

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Biogenic methane reductions required under the climate change Bill **(/publications/biogenic-methane-reductions-required-under-the-climate-change-bill/)**

01 May 2019

Date of briefing: 02 May 2019

Publication

Cabinet Paper

Hon James Shaw

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Cabinet paper policy decisions for Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill departmental report (/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/cabinet-paper-policy-decisions-for-climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill-departmental-report/).

01 Oct 2019

This paper sought Cabinet agreement to policy changes to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill for inclusion in the departmental report.

Cabinet Paper

Hon James Shaw

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Related pages

Climate change (/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/)

30 Oct 2023

Our work programme is focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing climate.

Huringa āhuarangi

Climate Change Response Act 2002 (/acts-and-regulations/acts/climate-change-response-act-2002/)

04 Apr 2021

This Act puts in place a legal framework to enable New Zealand to meet its international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,...

Emissions trading scheme

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Economic analysis for the proposed Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill (/acts-and-regulations/acts/climate-change-response-amendment-act-2019/economic-analysis-for-the-proposed-climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill/)

05 Apr 2021

The economic analysis for the proposed Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill which preceded the Act.

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Emissions budgets and the emissions reduction plan (/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/emissions-reductions/emissions-budgets-and-the-emissions-reduction-plan/)

17 Jul 2024

Aotearoa New Zealand is using a system of emissions budgets to meet our 2050 target. Find out more about emissions budgets.

Emissions reduction plan

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Emissions reductions **(/what-government-is-** **doing/areas-of-work/climate-** **change/emissions-** **reductions/)**

13 Feb 2024

Aotearoa New Zealand has long-term climate targets: all greenhouse gases, except methane emissions from waste and agriculture biological processes, are to reach...

Emissions reduction plan

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Government climate- **change work programme** **(/what-government-is-** **doing/areas-of-work/climate-** **change/about-new-zealands-** **climate-change-programme/)**

17 Mar 2025

About the Government's work programme to help us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

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Guidance for organisations **requested to provide** **information under the** **Climate Change Response** **(Zero Carbon) Amendment** **Act 2019 (/acts-and-** **regulations/acts/climate-** **change-response-** **amendment-act-** **2019/guidance-for-** **organisations-requested-to-** **provide-information/)**

21 Sept 2020

Some organisations will be asked to report climate change-related information under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 (CCRA). Find out wha...

As New Zealand's lead advisor on the environment and climate, we enable people and places to thrive, now and in the future

He kaitohutohu matua o Aotearoa mō te taiao me te āhuarangi, ka whakaahei mātou i ō tātou iwi me ō tātou wāhi ki te puāwai, ināianei, hei te anamata hoki



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