**PSA Quick Submission Guide**

**For the Government’s Emissions Reduction Plan**

You can complete a [**quick submission**](https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/erp-quick-submission/) or a [**full submission**](https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/emissions-reduction-plan/consultation/) on the MFE website.

The following bullet points are to help you answer the three questions the Government is asking in its quick submission form.

You can copy the content below, but your submission will be more impactful if you put it in your own words and add your own ideas too!

1. **What do you think are the most important things to be considered in the development of the emissions reduction plan?**

* **The Emissions Reduction Plan needs to be ambitious.** The discussion document acknowledges that the proposals contained in it aren’t enough to meet the emissions budgets the Climate Change Commission has recommended. The final plan needs to be much more comprehensive and ambitious. It needs to include more specific, tangible policy initiatives than what have been included in the consultation document.
* **We need to do more to reduce emissions here at home in New Zealand**, rather than paying people in other countries to offset emissions for us. Investing in our domestic infrastructure now, rather than later, will mean we can reap the benefits earlier.
* **Our transition to a low-emissions future has to be a just transition.** That means making sure the Government supports communities and industries to actively plan the move to more sustainable activity, provides training to support people into new forms of work, provides a safety net to people whose work or lives might be affected by climate change, and makes sure that the policies we put in place to decarbonise don’t leave the most vulnerable people behind.
* **We need urgent action.** A just transition doesn’t mean a slow transition. It’s not about delaying the necessary changes because of the impacts on people’s livelihoods. Change will become harder the longer we put it off. A just transition needs to recognise that change is urgent, provide certainty by signalling the direction of change clearly, and provide the necessary support to those affected.
* **Workers, iwi and hapū, and communities need to be actively involved** in planning towards a just transition.
* **Public and community services need to be well-resourced** **to lead the transition** to a low-carbon future and to support people along the way. That includes making sure all government agencies are given the resources they need to coordinate climate action across government, as well as making sure public and community services organisations are well-funded and resourced to provide support in our communities.
* **The Government needs to lead by example.** That means accelerating the move towards a carbon neutral public service, and ensuring that criteria for government procurement and funding rules prioritise sustainability and a just transition.
* **Our public service needs more resources to deliver the plan we need.** The lack of detail in the Emissions Reduction Plan reflects the fact that the Government hasn’t adequately resourced this piece of work. Without proper resourcing, our public servants have been put under unreasonable pressure and unrealistic expectations, leaving us with a plan that falls short. This plan will impact every community and every sector in Aotearoa - it’s important that it’s the best that it can be, and that we get it right.

1. **What new initiatives would you include in an emissions reduction plan for Aotearoa?**

***Māori leadership***

* Sufficient resourcing for Māori to lead in our transition planning - including at community level, through formal iwi structures, and through other Māori representative groups.
* A Māori-led transition strategy that prioritises an equitable transition for Māori by Maori, shaped by and giving effect to the manaakitanga, kotahitanga, tiakitangi and whanaungatanga, and self determination.

***A Just Transition***

* Accelerated development of an Equitable Transitions Strategy; with as much of the strategy as possible being included in the final Emissions Reduction Plan in May 2022, along with a firm process to work with with iwi, unions, employers and communities on refining and implementing it.
* Strong labour rights, to help ensure workers are protected in a just transition to a low-emissions economy. This should include progressing Fair Pay Agreements, multi-employer collective agreements (MECAs), and common terms and conditions across the public service.
* Policy that provides opportunities for life-long learning, so people are able to adapt to shift industries or changing work.
* A more progressive, fairer tax system, with an improved ability to tax wealth to generate the revenue needed to support a just transition.
* A well-resourced public service and state sector that’s able to provide universal access to basic public services.
* Distributional effects should be considered as part of policy development from the start, not as an afterthought.

***Government leading by example***

* Secure, adequate funding and resourcing for government (both central and local) to coordinate climate change response efforts, and ensure they can carry out their role in helping communities adapt.
* Changes to government procurement rules to ensure that emission reductions and good employment standards are considered in procurement decisions.
* Leadership in public service, state sector, DHBs and local government engaging with their workers and with unions on identifying opportunities for emissions reduction in workplaces, and implementing them.

***Transport and infrastructure***

* The establishment of a public service agency to lead the delivery of infrastructure projects (eg, housing, transport and infrastructure).
* Stronger targets for transport in line with the Climate Change Commission’s recommendations.
* A commitment to free public transport as a universal basic public service that will reduce emissions, with health co-benefits.
* Reform of the public transport funding model to ensure reliable services and fair pay for workers.

***Research, science and innovation***

* Stable, secure funding and sustainable career pathways for workers in the research, science and innovation system.
* Involvement of workers in planning national science strategy so it can act on key priorities such as climate change in an impactful way, while being resilient and adaptable.

***Housing***

* A focus on providing affordable and healthy housing close to public and active transport.
* Urgent, large-scale provision of affordable, sustainable housing delivered by the state.

***Waste and circular economy***

* Investment in waste and circular economy infrastructure to drive emissions reductions.
* A focus on making sure job opportunities in waste and circular economy are available to the people who most need them (e.g. workers and communities that have been affected by the closure of sunset industries, people on lower incomes, and people with limited training).

***Agriculture***

* More action on agriculture. A just transition does not mean a slow transition, nor does it mean using the cost of change as a justification to delay action. It means taking action now to avoid placing the burdens on future generations, while providing sufficient support to people whose livelihoods will be affected by the change.

1. **What do you see are the main opportunities and impacts of emissions reduction policies in Aotearoa?**

***Opportunities***

* Proactively shifting to more sustainable industries provides opportunities to provide good, sustainable work to people whose current industries will be affected by climate change. For this to work well we need to ensure workers are represented in planning, and that particular attention is given to ensuring new work opportunities are available to the people who are most vulnerable.
* Changes to our cities - like investing in public transport, building more high-quality dense housing, and making our streets more friendly for walking and cycling - will not only help to address climate change but will also make our cities more equitable, more affordable, and better places to live.
* A well-planned, just transition is an opportunity to proactively address existing social inequalities - a failure to plan will certainly exacerbate them.

***Risks***

* The biggest risk is the risk of not doing enough. Change will become harder, more expensive and less effective the longer we leave it. So we need urgent action now.
* If we don’t adequately support people through change we risk leaving some people behind, especially our lowest paid workers and most vulnerable people. Our transition to a low-carbon economy needs to be a Just Transition where no one is left behind.