

4 March 2025

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

Personal details removed for proactive release

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 29916

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Any information held by the Ministry, produced in 2024, relating to the changed scope of the role of Climate Change Ambassador. Where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope."

On 3 February 2025 you agreed to refine the scope of your request to be for:

"Formal briefings prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for Ministers, produced in 2024, relating to the changed scope of the role of Climate Change Ambassador."

Attached are the following documents in scope of your request:

1. "Priorities for New Zealand's International Climate Change Engagement" dated 13 September 2024; and
2. "Appointment of Climate Change Ambassador", dated 17 September 2024.

Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



13 September 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by 20 September 2024

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE This submission seeks your agreement to priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement and policy settings, to align with the Coalition Government's climate, foreign and trade policy priorities.

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	27 September 2024
Associate Minister of Climate Change	For information by	27 September 2024
Minister for Trade	For concurrence by	27 September 2024
Minister of Climate Change	For concurrence by	27 September 2024

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Alice Revell	Divisional Manager	Climate, Antarctic & Environment Division	s9(2)(a)
Stuart Horne	Divisional Manager	Economic Division	

Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Key points

- International climate change engagement is an important strand to New Zealand's foreign and trade policy, as it is for our like-minded partners, key trading partners and the Pacific.
- Consistent with the Coalition Government's Climate Strategy, this submission proposes New Zealand's core interests related to the international aspects of climate change are:
 - to navigate the global economic transition taking place, ensuring New Zealand is well placed to succeed;
 - to support the agreed international cooperation framework to be effective in reducing the impact of climate change, while ensuring rules favourable to our interests and a least cost approach; and
 - to improve Pacific resilience and stability in the broader Indo-Pacific region, including for New Zealand's security.
- Annex 1 sets out the intersecting portfolio responsibilities of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, for Trade and of Climate Change related to New Zealand's international climate change engagement.
- Prospering in the global economic transition, with accelerating climate impacts and protectionist policy responses, will require an increased emphasis on supporting New Zealand's economic interests through international climate change engagement. This submission proposes actions to achieve this (see Annex 2 for more detail).
- To advance the three core interests above, New Zealand will also need to maintain credibility in multilateral climate change work where the rules are set, playing a constructive role in UN climate negotiations with like-minded partners and protecting our relationships with Pacific countries.
- Coherence across New Zealand's foreign policy requires that New Zealand sustain its climate cooperation in the Pacific to demonstrate our responsiveness to Pacific priorities, reinforce our role in Pacific regionalism, and enhance regional security and prosperity. New Zealand also has particular responsibilities for Tokelau, given its status as a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand under United Nations purview.
- Your agreement is sought to the proposed priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement and policy settings as set out above, to align with the Coalition Government's climate and foreign policy priorities.



Victoria Hallum
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Note that international climate change engagement is an important strand of New Zealand's foreign and trade policy, as it is for our like-minded partners, key trading partners and the Pacific; | Yes / No |
| 2 | Agree that New Zealand's core interests related to the international dimensions of climate change are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to navigate the economic transition, ensuring New Zealand is well placed to succeed;• to support the agreed international cooperation framework to be effective in reducing the impact of climate change, while ensuring rules favourable to our interests and a least cost approach; and• to improve Pacific resilience and stability in the broader Indo-Pacific region, including for New Zealand's security; | Yes / No |
| 3 | Agree to the priorities set out in this submission for New Zealand's international climate change engagement and policy settings, to deliver on this set of interests in line with the Coalition Government's foreign and trade policy priorities; | Yes / No |
| 4 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Minister for Trade and the Minister of Climate Change for concurrence, and to the Prime Minister and Associate Minister of Climate Change for information. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Trade

Date: / /

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

Date: / /

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Report

1. This submission proposes priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement and policy settings, to align with the Coalition Government's climate, foreign and trade policy priorities.
2. On 13 February 2024 Cabinet agreed to a set of recommendations on the Coalition Government's foreign policy priorities [CAB-24-MIN-0033]. On 4 June 2024 Cabinet agreed the Coalition Government's Strategy for Responding to Climate Change [CAB-24-MIN-0195] to support delivery of the Coalition Agreements, domestic legislation and international obligations. The Strategy identifies five priority areas for New Zealand's action to meet its climate targets to reduce the impact of climate change and prepare for its future effects. International engagement and knowledge sharing is one of the key enablers to support delivery of the strategy.
3. The proposed priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement and cooperation outlined in this submission – increased emphasis on economic transition; targeted multilateral engagement where New Zealand's interests are most acute; and a continued alertness to regional security and prosperity dimensions of climate change – will support alignment with the Coalition Government's foreign and trade policy priorities.

New Zealand's international climate change interests

4. Consistent with the Coalition Government's Climate Strategy, we propose that New Zealand's set of core interests related to the international dimensions of climate change are:
 - to navigate the economic transition, ensuring New Zealand is well placed to succeed;
 - to support the agreed international cooperation framework to be effective in reducing the impact of climate change, while ensuring rules favourable to our interests and a least cost approach; and
 - to improve Pacific resilience and stability in the broader Indo-Pacific region, including for New Zealand's security.
5. Whether New Zealand is seen as a constructive, reliable, partner on climate change also impacts on our key relationships and international standing, with potential implications for our broader interests and objectives. Other governments, particularly our like-minded partners, key trading partners and Pacific countries, make climate policy a key plank in their foreign and trade policy settings. How the Ministry proposes to respond to each of the three above interests is set out below.
6. Annex 1 sets out the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Trade and the Minister of Climate Change related to New Zealand's international climate change engagement. These workstreams intersect with a wide range of domestic portfolio interests, requiring coordination at the Ministerial level facilitated by the regular convening of the Climate Priorities Ministerial Group (CPMG). Since November 2023, the Ministry has been participating in the Interagency Climate Change Chief Executives Board to support the CPMG and coherence between domestic and international climate change policy. We continue to work to increase alignment.

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Economic transition: a more prosperous future for New Zealanders

7. The Coalition Government's Climate Strategy prioritises world leading innovation to boost the economy by providing tools and removing barriers for farmers and business to innovate and prepare for the future, as well as ensuring clean energy is abundant and affordable.
8. New Zealand needs to capitalise on the economic opportunities and manage the risks as countries transition away from fossil fuels. We need the innovation, technology and investment our international partners can offer. New Zealand also needs to influence and shape international regulatory and market approaches directed at facilitating the economic transition.
9. The Ministry proposes increased emphasis on New Zealand's economic interests in our international climate change engagement including through:
 - Promoting New Zealand's green economy and climate-resilient brand internationally;
 - Continuing New Zealand's international leadership in harnessing trade policy to support climate objectives;
 - Making climate cooperation a major strand of key bilateral relationships;
 - Harnessing opportunities and managing risk from climate policy shifts by our trading partners; and
 - Directing economic diplomacy towards support for New Zealand exporters, investors and innovators.
10. Annex 2 sets out in more detail how the Ministry proposes to direct its engagement in support of New Zealand's economic interests.

Global action: a sustainable future for New Zealanders

11. The Coalition Government has affirmed its commitment to New Zealand's climate change targets, taken under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Our traditional partners and Pacific countries expect New Zealand to play its part alongside them, to support the agreed international framework on climate change to be effective.

12.^{s6(a)}

13. Priorities for New Zealand's multilateral climate engagement in the year ahead include:
 - Submit our first Biennial Transparency Report and second Nationally Determined Contribution (led by the Ministry for the Environment);
 - New Zealand engagement in UN Climate Change Conference (COP) negotiations, consistent with negotiating instructions to be sought in the coming weeks, and the agreed negotiating mandate for the "new collective quantified goal" on climate finance;
 - Facilitating New Zealand stakeholder engagement in COP, to promote private partnerships and investment and showcase climate innovation; and

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

- Consistent with the direction in this submission, increased focus on promoting rules and norms aligned with New Zealand's economic interests at the multilateral level, including in the management of agricultural emissions, development of the international carbon market, and R&D.

A more resilient and secure region

14. Sustaining New Zealand's climate cooperation in the Pacific will be necessary to demonstrate our responsiveness to Pacific priorities, enhance regional security and prosperity and reinforce our role in Pacific regionalism. New Zealand also has particular responsibilities for Tokelau, given its status as a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand under United Nations purview.
15. Pacific Island Forum members, including New Zealand, have identified climate change as the single greatest threat to security in the region. The Pacific region will bear increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including further sea-level rise, extreme weather events, water shortages and pressure on food security, with implications for climate-induced mobility both internally in Pacific countries and across borders. It will also have severe economic impacts, with investment needs for climate-proofing infrastructure in Pacific countries likely to range between 6.5 and 9 percent of GDP annually (IMF, 2024).
16. New Zealand's \$1.3 billion climate finance commitment (currently through to the end of 2025) heavily prioritises the Pacific, and adaptation, to avoid some of the worst effects of climate change in our region and consequent economic, social and security impacts. We will also continue to advance policy initiatives that protect Pacific interests in the international system such as maritime zones and statehood in the face of sea level rise, as well as implement the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate-Related Mobility. Forum Leaders have also set a vision for the region to "continue to play a global leadership role in climate action" in the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, which we will continue to support through support for Pacific representation and presence at multilateral climate negotiations. Where consistent with New Zealand interests, we will support Pacific advocacy and negotiating positions, including as we look ahead to COP31 potentially being co-hosted by Australia in partnership with the Pacific in 2026. Support for climate resilience and the energy transition is also an increasing priority for our cooperation in South East Asia as we seek to secure a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.

17. ^{s6(a)}

Next steps

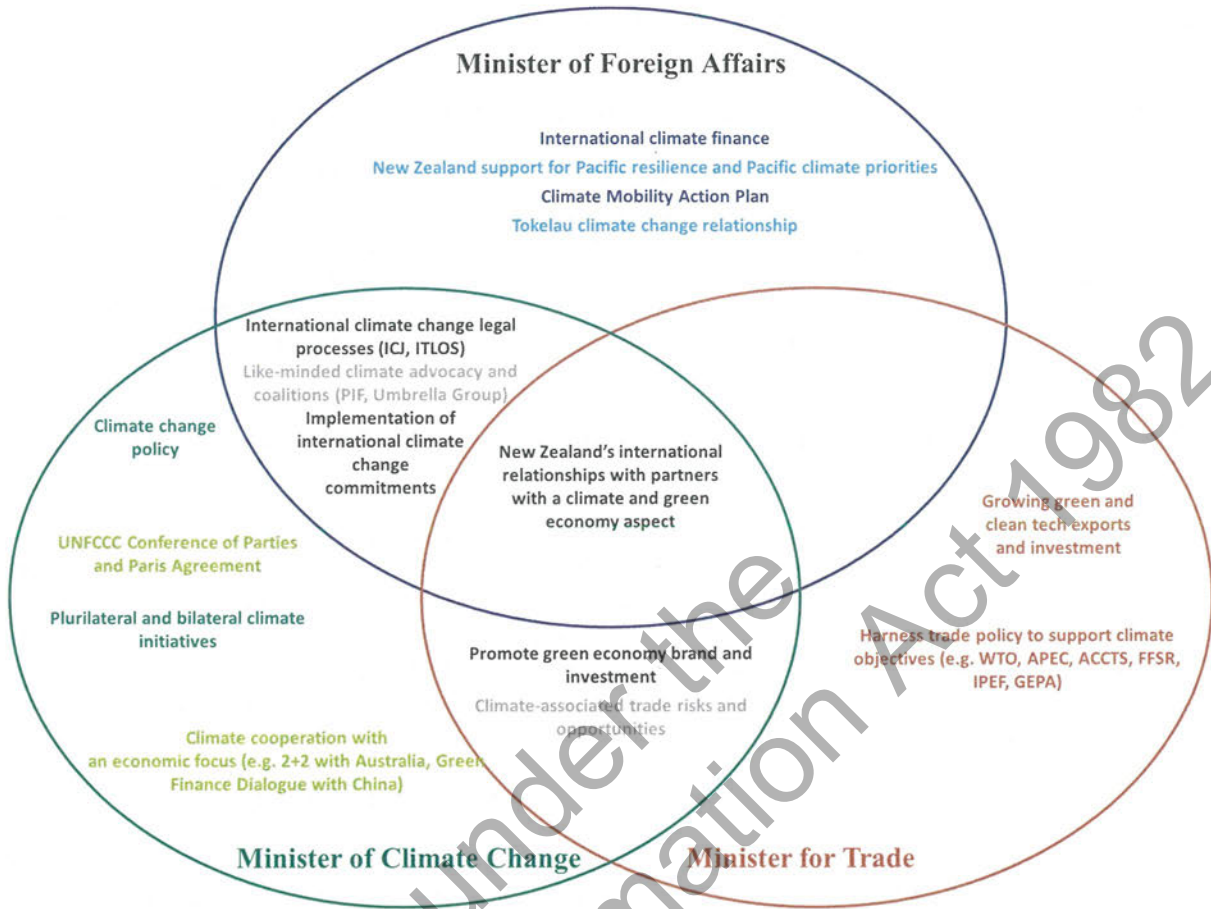
18. With your agreement, these updated international climate change engagement and policy settings will inform the Ministry's work programmes, its advice and support to relevant Ministers and its preparations for the 29th UNFCCC Conference of Parties.

Resourcing

19. There are no financial implications. The Ministry is re-focusing the role played by our Climate Change Ambassador to ensure that it aligns with the Government emphasis on managing the economic transition away from fossil fuels in ways that advantage New Zealand.

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Annex 1: Climate change responsibilities by Ministerial portfolio



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Priorities for New Zealand's international climate change engagement

Annex 2: How the Ministry supports New Zealand's economic interests through international climate change engagement

Promoting New Zealand's green economy and climate-resilient brand internationally

- New Zealand will need to maintain a strong narrative demonstrating an active and responsible overall contribution to the global response to climate change. This will include factoring our international climate change interests set out above into the design of high-level visits and trade missions led by the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade, as well as inbound high-level visits where we are increasingly fielding interest from delegations around New Zealand's innovative decarbonisation solutions and technologies.

Continuing New Zealand's international leadership in harnessing trade policy to support climate objectives

- This will include addressing issues such as international fossil fuel and agricultural subsidy reform, carbon border adjustment mechanisms, embedded emissions accounting and associated certification processes, and liberalisation of trade in environmental goods and services, as well as promoting the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability, implementing high-ambition FTAs such as CPTPP and the EU and UK Free Trade Agreements; advocacy through APEC; and negotiating new free trade agreements and other trade and green transition initiatives.

Making climate cooperation a major strand of key bilateral relationships

- This will include: taking forward the Trans-Tasman 2+2 Climate/Finance Ministers meeting initiative; the New Zealand-China Green Finance Dialogue; Singapore 'Climate Change and Green Economy' Enhanced Partnership Pillar; and using our climate finance to support transition to low carbon and climate resilient economies in South and South East Asia.

Harnessing opportunities and managing risk

- This will include harnessing opportunities arising from initiatives taken by partners that can support New Zealand's economic transition and create exporter opportunities, and managing the risk that partners' initiatives become unjustified trade barriers or undermine the rules-based trading system. It will involve monitoring policy, commercial and innovation developments in other countries relevant to New Zealand's economic transition, and monitoring proposals for standards and methodologies for embedded emissions accounting, Carbon Border Adjustments and deforestation-free supply chains regulations.

Directing economic diplomacy towards support for New Zealand exporters, investors and innovators

- A focus of economic diplomacy will be on achieving New Zealand's economic transition and contributing to global efforts where the New Zealand economy can benefit. It will include providing tailored green economy market intelligence advice to New Zealand business, exploring options for business participation in UNFCCC COPs and other international events, and promoting New Zealand companies offshore.



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere



13 September 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by 20 September 2024

Appointment of New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE To obtain your approval to proceed with the appointment of New Zealand's next Climate Change Ambassador (Wellington-based).

Recommended referrals

Minister of Climate Change

For concurrence by

27 September 2024

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Victoria Hallum	Deputy Secretary	Multilateral and Legal Affairs	s9(2)(a)
Raylene Liufalani	Chief of Staff	Office of the Chief Executive	

Minister's Office to complete

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Referred |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events | <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes | |

Comments

Appointment of next Climate Change Ambassador

Key points

- Your approval is sought to proceed with the appointment of New Zealand's next Climate Change Ambassador. This is a Wellington-based role. The previous Ambassador retired from the Ministry on 12 July 2024. International climate change engagement is an important strand to New Zealand's foreign and trade policy, as it is for our traditional partners, key trading partners and the Pacific.
- The job description of the Ambassador previously focused on leading New Zealand's delegations to UN Climate Change negotiations and representing New Zealand internationally on multilateral climate change issues (including climate finance).
- The appointment of the next Ambassador is an opportunity to focus on supporting New Zealand's economic interests in line with the Coalition Government's climate and foreign policy priorities.
- If you agree, the next Climate Change Ambassador will:
 - Support the Climate Change Minister in his international climate diplomacy, including through maintaining good relationships with relevant partners across government and in the private sector;
 - Support New Zealand's economic interests through international climate diplomacy to:
 - i) promote New Zealand's green economy and climate resilient brand internationally;
 - ii) support New Zealand's leadership in harnessing trade policy to support climate objectives;
 - iii) harness opportunities and manage risks from climate change initiatives taken by partners; and
 - iv) support New Zealand exporters, investors and innovators;
 - Maintain coherence with New Zealand's positions in multilateral climate negotiations (led by other groups in the Ministry); and
 - Contribute to climate change related policy advice, including engagement with other agencies.
- Officials propose that the Divisional Manager for the Economic Division, Stuart Horne, be appointed as the next Climate Change Ambassador. Stuart is a senior diplomat who has previously served as Divisional Manager of the Middle East and Africa Division and has had postings in Brussels and Apia. Please see attached bio for details.
- Economic Division is part of the Ministry's Trade and Economic Group. Appointing the Divisional Manager as the next Climate Change Ambassador would bring a stronger economic lens to the Ministry's support of the Climate Change Minister and harness Economic Division's connections to business. Existing cross-Ministry climate coordination mechanisms would ensure alignment with multilateral climate negotiations and climate finance workstreams, which would be led by senior officials in the relevant groups. There are no specific resourcing implications.

Appointment of next Climate Change Ambassador

- If this appointment is approved, officials will work with the Climate Change Minister to agree a work programme for the next Climate Change Ambassador aligned with the above job description.

Bede Corry

Bede Corry
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Agree the job description for the Climate Change Ambassador as described in this submission. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Approve the appointment of Stuart Horne as New Zealand's next Climate Change Ambassador. | Yes / No |
| 3 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Minister of Climate Change for his concurrence. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change

Date: / /

Appointment of next Climate Change Ambassador

Annex: Bio

	<p>Stuart Horne is Divisional Manager of the Economic Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In this role he has responsibility for trade and economic analysis, economic diplomacy, economic security and green economy/ green transition issues. Stuart also has oversight of the Ministry's engagement with the OECD, G20 and the Small Advanced Economies initiative.</p> <p>Having previously worked as a corporate lawyer, Stuart joined the Ministry in 1999. Stuart served as New Zealand's Special Coordinator to the Small Island Developing States Conference in 2014, following a posting as New Zealand's Deputy High Commissioner to Samoa. Prior to leading the Economic Division, Stuart was Divisional Manager of the Middle East and Africa Division. He has also had a posting in Brussels and worked in the Ministry's Legal and Trade Negotiations Divisions.</p>
---	--

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982