

28 September 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information regarding the New Zealand Walking Access Commission's progress in becoming carbon neutral.

In December 2020, the Government announced a climate change emergency and the establishment of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP), to accelerate emissions reductions in the public sector and be carbon neutral by 2025. As a Crown Agent, the Commission has been directed to measure its emissions from the 2022/23 financial year onwards, reduce these in-line with a 1.5 degree reduction pathway and report our emissions, reduction plans and progress by December 2023.

Your specific questions are addressed below

- Have you got a policy inside your department for zero-carbon use by 2025 and what's the official wording of it?

The Commission does not have a written policy for zero-carbon by 2025.

- Have you got a zero carbon committee? What structure have you set up with how many staff? Which section of your organisation has this been delegated to and name the staff?

The Commission has established a carbon neutral working group reporting to the Chief Executive consisting of the Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Communications Manager, Corporate Services Advisor and a Regional Field Advisor.

- What are the main areas you have identified to meet the set goal? For each of these, what's your work plan?

The Commission is a Tier 2 agency under the GNGP and is not required to report until end 2023. However, the Commission has committed to measuring CO2e starting in October.

- When do you plan to phase out coal?

The Commission does not consume energy derived from coal.

- Any other additional information regarding your agencies planned transition to be in line with the governments initiative to combat climate change that will require the public sector to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025.

The Commission is fully committed and supportive of the CNGP.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ric Cullinane', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ric Cullinane
Chief Executive | Tumuaki