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14 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Public Sector Carbon Neutrality Accountability Project**

Thank you for your email of 26 September 2021, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Specifically, you have asked:

1. *Does your organisation currently have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025? If so, is there an official wording for it?*
2. *Do you have an advisory committee dedicated to zero-carbon neutrality? If so, what is its structure, and how many staff are dedicated to it?*
3. *What are your main priorities for carbon neutrality?*
4. *What are your current gross emission reduction targets?*
  - a. *What priority areas have you identified to meet this target?*
  - b. *For each of these, what is your work plan?*
5. *When does your organisation plan to phase in the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

With respect to question 1, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) does not have a policy for zero-carbon use by 2025, because EECA is already a carbon-neutral organisation. EECA has been measuring and reporting its emissions with Toitū (formerly CEMARS) for the past 14 years (since 2007/08). It has offset all its greenhouse gas emissions, including those from business-related air travel, for the past three financial years (since 2018/19). EECA, as a member of the Climate Leaders Coalition, does have a policy to reduce its absolute (gross) emissions by 55% against a 2018 baseline by 2030, which is consistent with keeping global temperature warming to within 1.5 degrees.

With respect to question 2, EECA has a Kakariki/Sustainability Group, comprised of staff members, which is proactively taking steps to reduce our negative impacts on the environment. The group consists of a chair and has seven members.

With respect to question 3, decarbonisation is at the heart of our purpose. As a signatory of the Climate Leaders Coalition, we're committed to measuring and publicly reporting on our emissions, setting a public emissions reduction target, and working with our suppliers to reduce their emissions. While we're actively reducing our emissions, we offset the remaining emissions through the Spray Point Station, which is a native forest regeneration site located in Marlborough, New Zealand. The carbon forest area is under a QEII covenant, and is home to a diverse range of vegetation, including a threatened species of broom. The site also provides a breeding area for the New Zealand falcon.

With respect to question 4, EECA's goal is to reduce our emissions by 55% by 2030 against a 2018/19 baseline (i.e from 247.1 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e to 111.0 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>), consistent with keeping warming to within 1.5 degrees.

With respect to 4a, the priority areas identified to meet our target are reducing work related travel, reducing paper usage, encouraging the use of EVs and reducing office electricity use.

With respect to 4b, our work plans for our priority areas are:

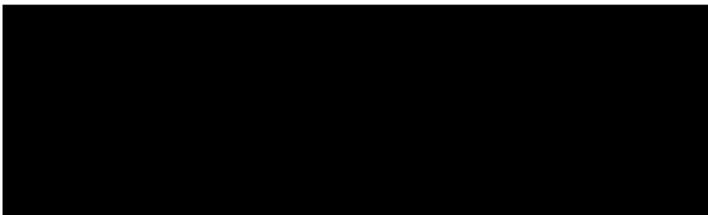
- a) We've reviewed our air travel policy and are increasing air travel awareness across our team. Last year, we reduced our flights by 34.8%, which was helped by lockdown restrictions, zero international travel and by an increasingly specific set of requirements for business travel.
- b) We've implemented a work from home policy that has helped reduce our team's transport-related carbon footprint. This sees all members of our team able to work from home one day per week
- c) We've implemented better teleconferencing and video call technology to cope with virtual connectivity
- d) We've set up secure print and electronic signatures to reduce the amount of paper we print
- e) We've continued efforts to choose and encourage uptake of low emissions vehicles for business travel, including ride-sharing agreements with low-carbon providers, encouraging public transport commuting, and using EVs for work trips. At EECA, we don't have carparks for staff.
- f) We've closed our small Christchurch office which has permanently cut the energy consumption and carbon emissions of operating an office and enabled a fulltime working-from-home policy for Christchurch staff (currently one).
- g) We have an internal sustainability "Kakariki" group dedicated to emissions reduction initiatives, sustainability, and monitoring our performance

With respect to question 5, our offices in Auckland and Wellington are rated 4 and 5 stars through the NABERSNZ rating system which represents excellent energy performance.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of EECA's response to your information request. You can do this by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by writing to the Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caseley  
**Chief Executive**