

Kia Ora,

Seniors Climate Action Network is alarmed that the NZ government has not based its latest proposals for emission reductions and government spending on a detailed energy plan in which the projected effects of the various proposals are explicitly and quantitatively modelled.

To ensure that decisions are based on what is possible, our government needs to model a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and infrastructure based on the best available science which takes into account physical limits. The MBIE currently undertakes a financial approach of energy modelling in NZ using the SADEM modelling tool which projects future energy supply and demand and subsequent energy sector greenhouse gas emissions. This financial modelling approach leaves out vital physical factors: it does not take into account the limitations of peak oil, declining net energy, scarcity of key minerals, and lower energy per capita possible using renewable energy. These omissions can only but result in distorted and unrealistic projections. MEDEAS used by the European Union is an example of a much more comprehensive modelling approach: <https://medeas.eu>

We have only one opportunity to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and infrastructure. We cannot afford to squander any of our carbon budget on frivolous consumption and experiments with unproven technologies. Our remaining carbon budget needs to be used for projects which enable all citizens of New Zealand to thrive on less energy and to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We expect and demand from our government that it bases its projections of transition and decisions on the very best modelling methodologies available and not be persuaded by self-interested lobby groups into adopting dead end, irreversible pathways.

We all need to be aware of the advice from the IPCC that we now have only 8 years left to halve our emissions (2030) to stave off the worst effects of a hot house earth and provide a safer future for our children and future generations. The urgency is acute and to be successful, we must be informed by a rigorous quantitative approach based on the best available science as well as economics. Please note that the issues addressed above are described in our SCAN movie and report which are supported by peer reviewed publications in top ranking international journals.

<https://www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org/downloads/ThrivingWithinPlanetaryBoundaries-SCAN-28December2021-1080p.mp4>

<https://www.seniorsclimateactionnetwork.org/downloads/ThrivingWithinPlanetaryBoundaries-NetZeroEmissionsBy2030-27Dec2021.pdf>

Best regards,

The SCAN committee:

Sue Novell, Ivan Johnstone, Neil James, Donna Peacock, Megan Evans

On behalf of Seniors Climate Action Network