

682 Portobello Road,
Broad Bay,
Dunedin,
9014

27th of May 2016

The Honourable Paula Bennett, Minister for Climate Change.
cc. Dr. Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment.

SCAN (Seniors Climate Action Network) are a group of senior citizens concerned about climate change and its effects on future generations and on the environment

Our Aims are:

1. Raising awareness of climate change among senior citizens, and working towards a low-carbon future.
2. Encouraging young people, to value resilience and to experience a lowcarbon lifestyle, through spending time with them and organising events.
3. Taking action (submissions, petitions), to put the planet and future generations ahead of profit.
4. Changing lifestyles to new patterns of living, to lower our own carbon footprint at household, community and national levels.
5. Celebrating and publicising positive change that is already happening in the world.

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of SCAN. Reading our aims above will indicate to you how concerned we are with the plight of the world's climate today, noting its continuing deterioration, and how determined we are to play our part in proposing solutions and implementing actions to mitigate the worst effects in future.

We have come to identify the increasing hazards we all face from the growing emissions of greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere. Our main hope of averting the worsening effects of this problem is to confront these challenges head-on, as a nation, as communities, as families and as individuals and to play our part together to forge what Lord Nicholas Stern describes as 'a new industrial revolution' and to get it started with urgency.

In the COP conference in Paris last year, 195 countries agreed that levels of global warming must be kept to 2 degrees to avoid the worst effects and that we must aspire to a limit of 1.5 degrees. This Government went to the table with a pledge to reduce emissions by 11% by 2030, a level SCAN and many others felt uninspiring and fell short of measures required to help stabilise future climate change. Following current trends, and unless our efforts to reduce emissions are effective, the world seems on track to warm by a dangerous 3 - 4 degrees by 2100. Taking just the effects of a rise in sea levels at those temperatures, we must expect our grandchildren to have to endure and suffer the dangers stemming from two or more metres of sea level rise over their lifetimes. Over the last two decades or more, scientists have consistently alerted us to the continuing effects of increasing carbon emissions and the expected outcomes for our homes, businesses, food production and the seas, to say nothing of the social disruption springing from these. Through impressive scientific and technical progress over a short time, however, our initial confusion has shifted through despair to hope and then determination, because it looks like by acting together we can beat some of these effects back. By grasping and driving initiatives we are beginning to see opportunities to forge a new, green economy based on clean energy and smart materials. In this we echo your own call for '...a concerted and united effort to improve our world,' through being

'...absolutely committed to reducing our emissions...' to achieve '... the ambitious target' you set before Paris. Nonetheless, success in getting agreement was finally achieved, which deserves our approbation for setting goals for action, something which has eluded the world until this point. How modest these goals are might be argued, but we must deliver on these undertakings with a sense of urgency. We are reminded of this month in, month out by the latest unseasonal or unprecedented temperatures, fire or flood disaster. When you anticipate international accountability of your implementation, you might recognise that '...trust and confidence' proffered to the vulnerable nations of the Pacific region is owing to our people too, which we would translate as a supportive climate for individual action in homes and workplaces.

We believe that an important role for the government is that of pump primer, creating conditions for the growth of our low emissions future, leading with a plan for change and the fostering of environmental innovation by industries, communities and individuals. In terms of leadership, we applaud the government initiative to stimulate the uptake of electric vehicles over the next five years. Hopefully, this will be the tip of an iceberg, as the anticipated 64,000 seems a modest ambition for a nation so well endowed with clean energy. It will be possible to make real cuts in emissions from transport as New Zealand motorists are increasingly recognising EVs as 'normal' cars, and are enticed by reports of performance and availability in the reasonably short term. Many governments around the world are seeing the demise of internal combustion engines as a driver of their emissions reduction targets: The Dutch and the Danes are striving to prevent the take-up of fossil-fuelled cars in their countries after 2025. Further to the EV ambitions of all established vehicle manufacturers, initiatives are emerging from some oblique directions. If Apple in the US and Dyson in the UK (with government support) can contemplate developing prototypes, why not a Fisher and Pykel car in New Zealand? ...and why not in partnership with the Government?

We applaud that 'New Zealand is encouraging the transition to clean energy as a member of the Friends of Fossil Fuel subsidy Reform', but are confused by what we see as a mixed message. To achieve our stated targets we need to abandon the use of fossil fuels as soon as we are able, leaving much of what is left unexploited. Why then, are we subsidising coastal and deep-sea oil exploration by \$10 million at the same time as cutting all support for wind farm development? If such explorations are successful, and result in an offshore oil industry, presumably the anticipated outcome of the exercise, we can only be part of the continuing fossil fuel future. Recently, Simon Bridges agreed that "...we need to transition out of coal" in respect to fuelling Huntly. Alternatively, the government needs to create incentives for the use of currently wasted logging byproducts as a coal substitute, which would save multiple tons of annual emissions, help place a much-needed nail in coal's coffin, and send a message to our coal-reliant milk drying company. The future, for our children and certainly our grandchildren, presents them with a state of peril that is likely to grow into war-like hostilities with an unpredictable and increasingly vindictive climate. Under those conditions, governments will need to respond with vision and leadership, to plan and galvanise populations to new levels of resourcefulness and adaptability. The members of SCAN are despondent in finding that our current government is demonstrating neither sufficient vision nor urgency.

We are calling for:

- An end to off-shore oil prospecting. Leave it there!
- A swift transition to carbon-neutral fuels in industry and transport.
- The accelerated adoption of a range of non-polluting forms of electricity production.
- Support and stimulus to find local solutions to household power and transport.

Thank you,

Vic Mills, Dunedin SCAN member.