

# Responding to a changing climate

## The Government's climate strategy



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

## Climate change is a challenge and an opportunity

Households, businesses and our economy are already feeling the effects of climate change. We have seen what severe weather can do to infrastructure and property, and how that disrupts our supply chains and communities. That's why we need to work together to reduce the impacts of climate change and prepare for its future impacts.

We can create a future where our communities and our economy thrive by producing fewer emissions and strengthening the way we prepare. The actions we take now, like building more ways to generate renewable energy, can help boost the economy. We can protect our way of life and what we value most – our communities, industries and homes – while minimising the cost of climate change to our country.

We need to think long-term for future generations, taking practical steps to reduce our emissions and build resilience to a changing climate. We need to use evidence and effective policy in our response.

The coalition Government is committed to meeting its climate change targets – this is our climate strategy.

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**Hon Simon Watts**  
Minister of Climate Change



# The Government's response to a changing climate

The Government will meet its targets to reduce the impact of climate change and prepare for its future effects.

## We are focusing on five pillars:

### An example of our plans

### What it could mean for you



#### Infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared

Delivering a fair and enduring system that helps New Zealand be ready for climate change and provides clarity on costs

- Our communities and properties are better protected from severe weather events and the cost of repair is minimised.
- People have easy access to information and guidance on potential future risks to property and community.
- Interruptions to business operations are minimised during and after severe weather events.



#### Credible markets support the climate transition

Pricing emissions fairly and effectively to incentivise emissions reductions

- The costs of reducing emissions are minimised.
- Households and businesses are encouraged to switch to clean energy to reduce the cost of emissions on production.
- New Zealand's competitive edge and international reputation is strengthened because of our low-emissions economy.



#### Clean energy is abundant and affordable

Doubling renewable energy by 2050 and installing 10,000 public charging points for electric vehicles

- People can heat their homes more affordably, with energy coming from sun, wind, water and geothermal.
- People charge their electric vehicles easily across the country.
- Businesses have confidence in our energy security to grow their operations.



#### World-leading climate innovation boosts the economy

Providing tools and removing barriers for businesses to innovate and prepare for the future

- People enjoy a better standard of living, with more productive jobs and economic growth.
- Businesses develop low-emissions goods to access key markets.
- Agriculture industry uses technology to lower emissions while lifting productivity.



#### Nature-based solutions address climate change

Restoring biodiversity, while investigating new ways of harnessing nature to remove emissions from the atmosphere

- Homes and communities are better protected against climate change through restored habitats and ecosystems.
- Businesses have more options to reduce the impact of their emissions.
- More native forests can be found in our environment.

# How climate change impacts us

We are experiencing more frequent and severe storms, floods and landslips due to climate change. These events can seriously damage homes, communities, businesses and infrastructure.

Climate change is already costing New Zealand, and the costs are likely to continue to grow.



**750,000 New Zealanders and 500,000 buildings worth over \$145 billion** are near rivers and in coastal areas already exposed to extreme flooding.



Between 2007 and 2017, climate change cost an estimated **\$120 million in privately insured flood damage and \$720 million in economic losses from drought.**



The Treasury estimates the total costs of **physical damage to assets from the 2023 cyclone and flooding in the North Island to be \$9 to \$14.5 billion.**

# Government measures

New Zealand is working to reduce emissions and has committed to:

By 2030

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (Target 9)
- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to 50 per cent below gross 2005 levels by 2030 (New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement)
- Reduce biogenic methane to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030

By 2050

- Reach net zero for long-lived gases by 2050
- Reduce biogenic methane to 24 to 47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050\*

\* The 2050 methane target is currently subject to an independent expert review.

In April 2024, the Government announced nine targets to achieve better results in areas that matter to New Zealanders.

Target 9 is focused on reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to no more than **290 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e from 2022 to 2025 and 305 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e from 2026 to 2030.**

This keeps us on track to meet New Zealand's 2050 net zero target.