

**Climate Change
Chief Executives Board**

STRATEGY SESSION
meeting papers

Wednesday 27 September 2023
12.30 – 3.00pm



Climate Change Chief Executives Board Strategy Session – Collective Action/Role of Board

AGENDA

27 September 2023, 12:30–3:00pm
Room 2.05 at MfE Offices, 8 Willis Street

Attendees	James Palmer (Chair), Audrey Sonerson (MoT), Carolyn Tremain (MBIE) (online), Penny Nelson (DoC), Aaron Martin (CL), James Beard (Tsy delegate), Jenna Rogers (NEMA delegate), Karen Vercoe (DIA – Acting CE), Julie Collins (MPI delegate)	
In support	David Smol (Facilitator), Lisa Daniell, Chris Nees (IEB Unit) Item 2: Amy Tisdall, Sylvia Frean (IEB Unit), Anne Haira, Heather Peacocke, Linda Major (MfE) Item 3: Mel Rae, Jane White (IEB Unit)	
Apologies	Caralee McLiesh (TSY), Dave Gawn (NEMA), Paul James (DIA), Ray Smith (MPI)	
#	Time	Item
Karakia tīmatanga / Chair's opening comments and perspective sharing		
1.	12:30-1:00pm	Opening comments, scene setting, context sharing Lead: Chair and Facilitator, sharing of views/context from other Board members
Research synthesis on New Zealanders' perceptions on climate change and what this means for the Board's work		
2.	1:00-2:00pm	<p>New Zealanders' perceptions on climate change Lead: IEB Unit and MfE</p> <p>The Board expressed interest in understanding public perspectives on climate change to better understand the societal shifts occurring, including: what New Zealanders expect from the government in response to climate change; whether the government is meeting those expectations; and the Board's views on its activity in this space.</p> <p>This session will present an overview of existing research, outline key themes and gaps to be addressed, and explore the IEB's role and appetite to be more active.</p> <p>Key points/ proposed discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key takeaways and gaps to respond to? • 9(2)(f)(iv) <p>• What else do New Zealanders need? What would success look like?</p> <p>9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>Paper: - 2.1 Public perceptions slide pack</p>

Draft of Climate IEB BIM and collective narrative		
3.	2:00-2:45pm	<p>Aligning on draft of Climate IEB BIM and collective narrative for the Board Lead: IEB Unit</p> <p>The purpose of this session is for the Board to share perspectives and align on the draft BIM and collective narrative documents.</p> <p>The BIM reflects feedback from Climate Directors and DCEs. The collective narrative was commissioned by the Board at its April strategy session. This is a product for the Board to be aligned on why we exist, our role, the challenges we need to navigate and our priorities. It could also serve as a comms product when engaging with stakeholders.</p> <p>Key points/ proposed discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we all agree on the proposed collective narrative for the Board – why we exist, the challenges we face, and what we need to do? • What changes may need to be made to the BIM under different post-election scenarios – risks/opportunities? • Have we got the right level of ambition and commitment to our emissions reduction targets and adaptation goals? Can we collectively stand behind these? • Are the key messages the right ones to lead out on and what kind of conversations does this set up for the Board to have with Ministers early in the new term? <p>Papers: 3.1 Draft BIM 3.2 Draft summary of key climate change advice [LEGALLY PRIVILEGED] 3.3 Draft collective narrative for the Board</p>
Summary and what will make us successful in the coming year		
4.	2:45-3:00pm	<p>Summary of key take-outs and actions Lead: Facilitator</p> <p>Capturing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will we define success for the Board over the first 100 days (focus on mitigation given upcoming adaptation-focused session)? • When we look back what will we have (together) delivered?
Karakia / meeting wrap		



Karakia

Karakia timatatanga: opening

Tuia i runga

Tuia i raro

Tuia i roto

Tuia i waho

Tuia i te here tangata

Ka rongo te pō

Ka rongo te ao

Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē

Unite above

Unite below

Unite without

Unite within

Listen to the night

Listen to the world

Now we come together

As one.

Karakia whakakapi: closing

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē

Restrictions are moved aside

So the pathway is clear

To return to everyday activities.



Public perceptions on climate change

Understanding what New Zealanders expect from government on climate action and the potential role of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board and agencies in addressing this

September 2023



Agenda and Purpose

Purpose: To build awareness of public perceptions on climate change, to better understand what New Zealanders expect from the Government on climate change, whether Government is meeting those expectations, and to identify potential opportunities to address any gaps.

This session has two parts:

1. Overview of existing research on public perspectives on climate change, alongside the current context
 - Key themes, what we can conclude?
 - Where are the gaps? What do we need to respond to?
2. Opportunities to address gaps to push forward meaningful progress

9(2)(f)(iv)

Research snapshot

A growing worry for New Zealanders, but...

Concern around climate change has steadily grown over recent years. People believe we need to act - as government, businesses and individuals. But the problem can still feel far away, and climate action can lack salience because of other pressures.

New Zealanders are more concerned than most

- 4 in 5 people are concerned about the impacts here and around the world, IPSOS 2023

We want more to be done

- 2 in 3 people believe if government doesn't act now, it will be failing New Zealanders, IPSOS 2023

But climate is disconnected from everyday worries and realities...

Competing crises are felt more acutely or perceived to need more immediate attention

- EECA Consumer and Business Monitors, IPSOS Issues report 2023

It's hard to make change without increasing costs or impacting quality of life

- EECA Consumer and Business Monitors

It will be a bigger concern tomorrow

- Climate change concern is expected to be significantly more pronounced over the next 5 years, IPSOS 2023

Research snapshot

Progress is stalling with other concerns taking priority

Proposed actions to mitigate or adapt to climate impacts are being met with apathy, confusion, hopelessness, or people are struggling to feel a sense of connection.

**‘Commitment to living a sustainable lifestyle’
dropped from 43% to 32%**

- Kantar Better Futures 2023

**2 in 3 people believe they’re doing all they can
to reduce environmental impact**

- EECA Consumer Monitor 2023

**Business actions are lagging with many businesses
believing climate action is not applicable to them.
There’s only moderate desire to act in the next 5
years**

- TRA synthesis report 2023, Stats NZ data

**59% of businesses say it’s hard to reduce emissions
without increasing their costs**

- EECA Business Monitor 2023

What research can tell us

Existing research can help us understand how New Zealanders relate to climate change, and where we are as a society on the journey to progress. Published research focuses primarily on mitigation actions at a broad level, rather than exploring specific actions or policies. Further research may be available within key sectors or may need to be commissioned, particularly for adaptation actions. MfE is currently researching the needs of property owners (data available in October).

The following research summary covers -

1. How concerned people are about climate change
2. What New Zealanders expect from government on climate action
3. How government is meeting this expectation

Data from TRA Research Audit on New Zealanders' perceptions of climate change. Prepared for MfE March 2023, and updated in July 2023

How concerned are people today?

High recognition and concern for the impact of climate change

4 in 5 New Zealanders are concerned about the impacts of climate change in New Zealand and around the world



Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the impacts of climate change that are already being seen in your country / other countries around the world?

% Concerned

80% 

Your own country

Males (75%) are statistically significantly less likely, while females (85%) are significantly more likely to be concerned about the impacts seen in New Zealand.

82%

Other countries

Males (76%) are statistically significantly less likely, while females (87%) are significantly more likely to be concerned about the impacts seen globally.

 /  indicates significantly higher / lower than 2022 data
 /  indicates significantly higher / lower than total New Zealand

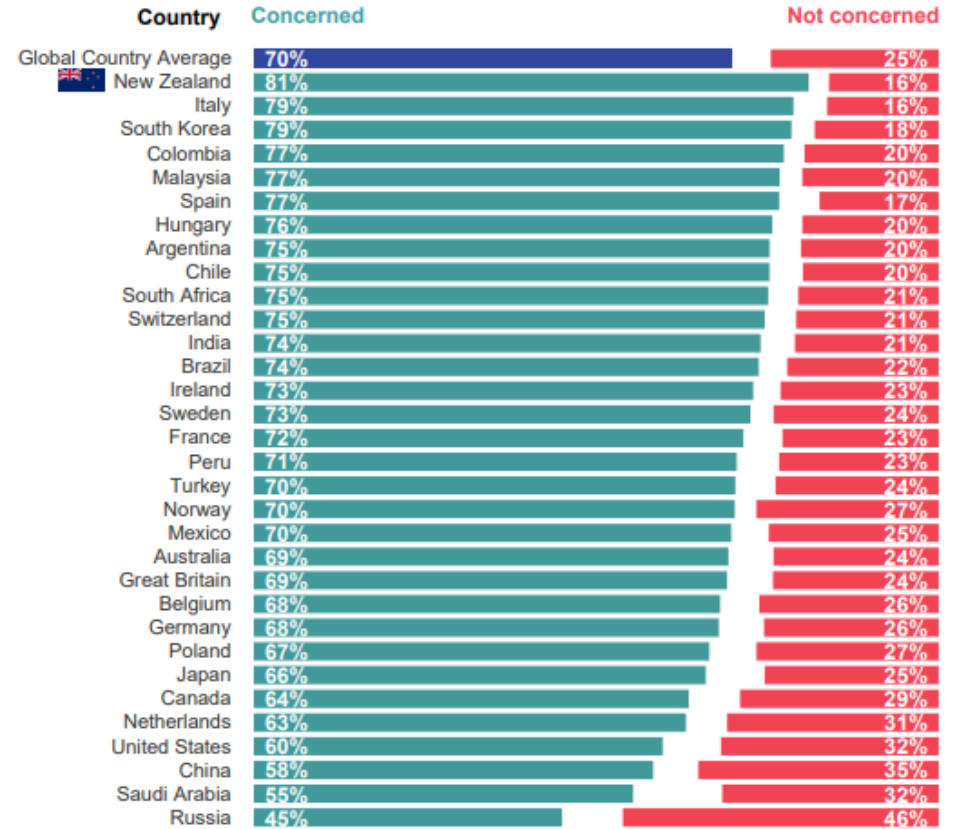
How concerned are people today?

New Zealanders are more concerned than the rest of the world

Compared to the rest of the world, New Zealanders are particularly concerned about the current impacts of climate change seen around the world

Country data

Q. How concerned are you, if at all, about the impacts of climate change that are already being seen in other countries around the world?



© Ipsos | New Zealanders' Attitudes & Behaviours Towards Climate Change 2022

QED1: How concerned are you, if at all, about the impacts of climate change that are already being seen...

Base: New Zealand (n=1,003), Global (n=23,577 online adults across 31 countries, 18 Feb-4 Mar 2022). NB: Surveyed adults aged 16-74 in 30 countries, adults aged 16-99 in Norway.



How concerned are people today?

Climate change is our #1 environmental concern

In terms of environmental issues facing New Zealand, climate change has continued to rise

Table 6.1 Most important environmental issues facing New Zealand according to survey respondents, 2010–2022.

	2010	2013	2016	2019	2022
Climate change, GHG, carbon	14.2	7.9	10.5	18.6	20.5
Freshwater issues	31.8	27.7	32.6	27.6	18.4
Waste, sewage, sanitation	9.4	11.4	11.8	12.4	15.5
Pollution	21.1	13.8	13.4	11.7	10.5
Urbanisation, development, land use	7.6	7.4	8.5	3.9	8.0
Pressures from over population	13.3	9.2	9.5	8.1	7.4
Protection/conservation of the environment	13.3	13.2	10.4	8.4	7.2
Emissions, smog (from vehicles)	4.7	5.2	5.3	2.4	6.8
Marine and coastal environments	4.5	7.0	7.2	5.3	6.4
Environmental regulation and politics	8.7	7.2	5.9	3.6	6.0
Agriculture/farming	8.5	17.1	19.3	5.3	5.8
Environmental pressures from acts of war/conflict	4.4	3.6	4.0	6.7	5.4
Sustainable management of resources	10.1	8.3	6.6	4.1	4.8
Forestry, logging, deforestation	4.4	4.3	3.3	3.8	4.8
Air quality	9.2	10.2	9.7	4.8	3.7
Energy, transportation, fuel	4.4	10.1	6.1	3.9	2.9
Social issues (poverty, famine, inequality)	3.8	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.8
Pests, weeds, disease	2.6	2.8	3.2	4.6	2.4
Poison, pesticides, toxins	2.8	3.4	2.6	4.0	2.3
Mining, large industry	5.0	8.5	4.1	1.6	2.3
Tourism	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.8
Extinction, habitat loss and degradation	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.5
Other environmental topics	10.5	8.0	7.8	6.5	5.0
Other non-environmental topics	3.7	2.6	4.1	5.9	6.2
Unsure	2.1	1.3	1.8	2.6	6.5
Number of respondents	1,442	1,698	1,801	1,580	1,870

How concerned are people today?

But climate competes with other pressures

With all that's going on for people at the moment, climate change hasn't shifted in importance. The problem can still seem far away, and climate change action can lack salience, because of other pressures such as the cost of living.

Importance of issues to New Zealanders - Important/very important

	Important/very important	Vs last quarter
The cost of living	94%	-
New Zealand's economy	88%	+1%
Protection of New Zealand children	88%	-1%
Violence in society	86%	-
Not having access to good, affordable healthcare	86%	-2%
Availability of affordable housing	85%	-3%
Mental health issues	83%	-2%
The physical health of New Zealanders	82%	1%
Pollution of lakes, rivers and seas	80%	-2%
Caring for the aging population	79%	-4%
The state of New Zealand's transport infrastructure	76%	+4%
Build up of plastic in the environment	75%	-1%
Climate change	71%	+1%

GENERAL_ISSUES How important do you consider each of the following issues to be for New Zealand? NET Important/very important. Base: Total Sample, n=813

How concerned are people today?

Most businesses are aware of the impact of climate change

Only 16% of businesses are not aware or don't know about the potential impact of climate change.

Table 7
Businesses awareness of the potential impact of climate change
(Transition to a Low Emissions Economy)
 By size and industry⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
 2021

Size / Industry	Very aware	Somewhat aware	Not aware	Don't know
	Percent			
Total	39	45	8	8

1. The Business Operations Survey samples businesses with six or more employees. For more information on the businesses included, see [BOS Series Data Collection – DataInfo+](#)

2. Business size is defined by rolling mean employment (RME). For more information on RME, see the Data Dictionary in [BOS Series Data Collection – DataInfo+](#)

3. Results for the mining and electricity, gas, water, & waste services industries should be treated with caution due to the small numbers of businesses in these categories.

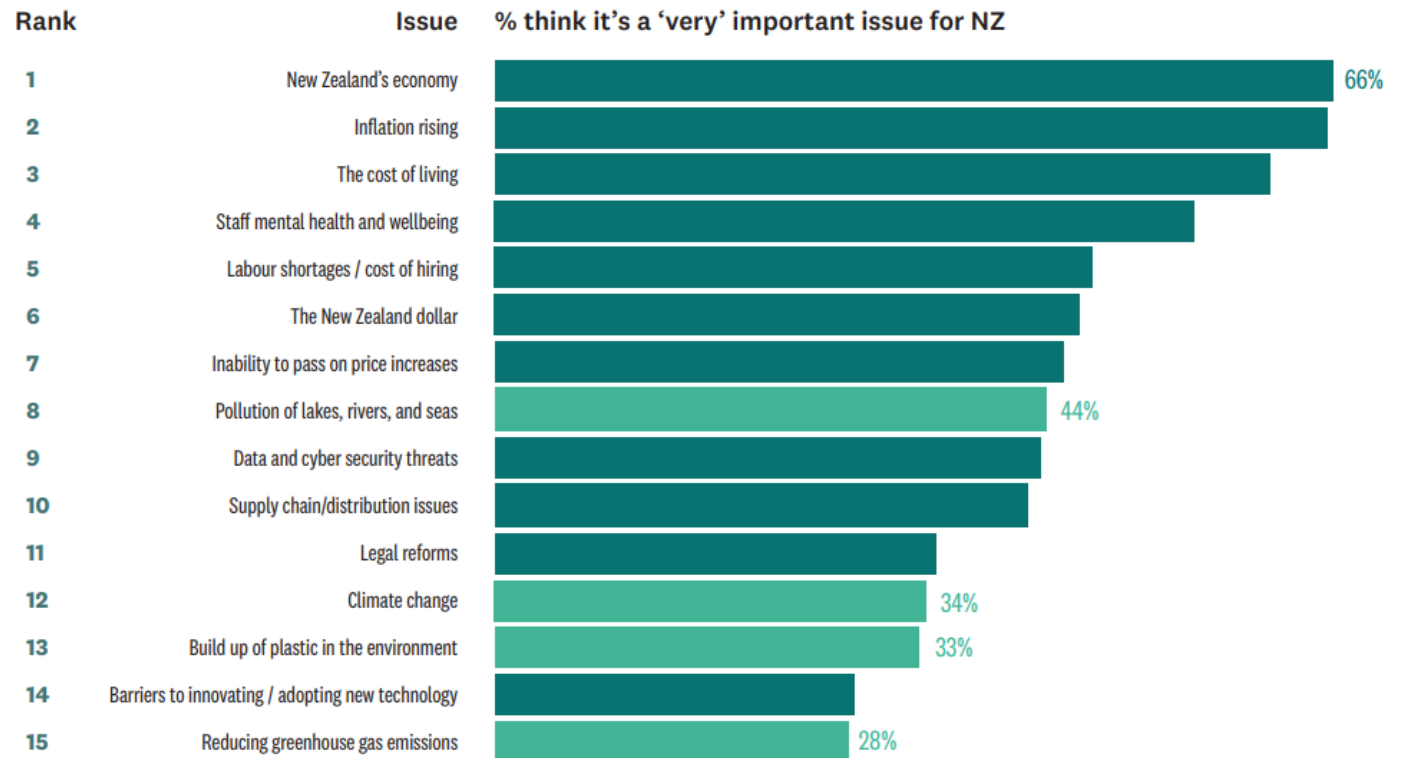
Note: Percentages are based on rounded numbers.
 Due to rounding, some numbers may not sum to stated totals.
 The data collected refers to the most recent completed financial year of the business.

Source: Stats NZ

How concerned are people today?

But businesses see other issues as more important today

But businesses face competing issues: environmental issues are **low priority** today



GENERAL_ISSUES - How important do you consider each of the following issues to be for New Zealand Businesses?
Base: May 23 n=508

How concerned are people today?

This is reflected in how businesses plan to respond

There's only moderate desire to act in the next five years

Table 10
Actions businesses planning to do in the next five years⁽¹⁾
(Transition to a Low Emissions Economy)
 2021

Climate change-related action	Plan to do in response to climate change	Plan to do for some other reason	Not planning to do	Not applicable	Don't know
	Percent				
Develop programmes to offset emissions	11	6	34	34	16
Reduce waste	33	31	9	14	12
Stop or reduce using coal and / or natural gas	5	2	14	69	11
Develop or expand offering of low emission goods and services	12	6	15	54	13
Change to lower emission technologies	17	9	18	40	16
Switch to more sustainable suppliers	20	10	24	28	18
Increase use of digital technologies	17	32	14	24	14
Assess the risks to the business of the physical impacts of climate change (eg increased fire risk)	18	8	21	34	18
Take steps to reduce the risks to the business of the physical impacts of climate change	19	8	21	32	19
Overall⁽²⁾	45⁽³⁾	50⁽⁴⁾

¹ The Business Operations Survey samples businesses with six or more employees. For more information on the businesses included, see [BOS Series Data Collection – DataInfo+](#)

² The numbers across this row will not sum to 100 percent. A business may select a different combination of any of the above actions.

³ This refers to the percentage of businesses that plan to take any of the climate change-related actions in response to climate change.

⁴ This refers to the percentage of businesses that plan to take any of the climate change-related actions for some other reason.

Note: Percentages are based on rounded numbers.
 Due to rounding, some numbers may not sum to stated totals.
 The data collected refers to the most recent completed financial year of the business.
 .. Figures not available

Source: Stats NZ

How concerned are people about tomorrow?

We'll be more concerned about climate change over the next 5 years

Concern over other issues will soften while climate change will be significantly more pronounced.

TOP ISSUES OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

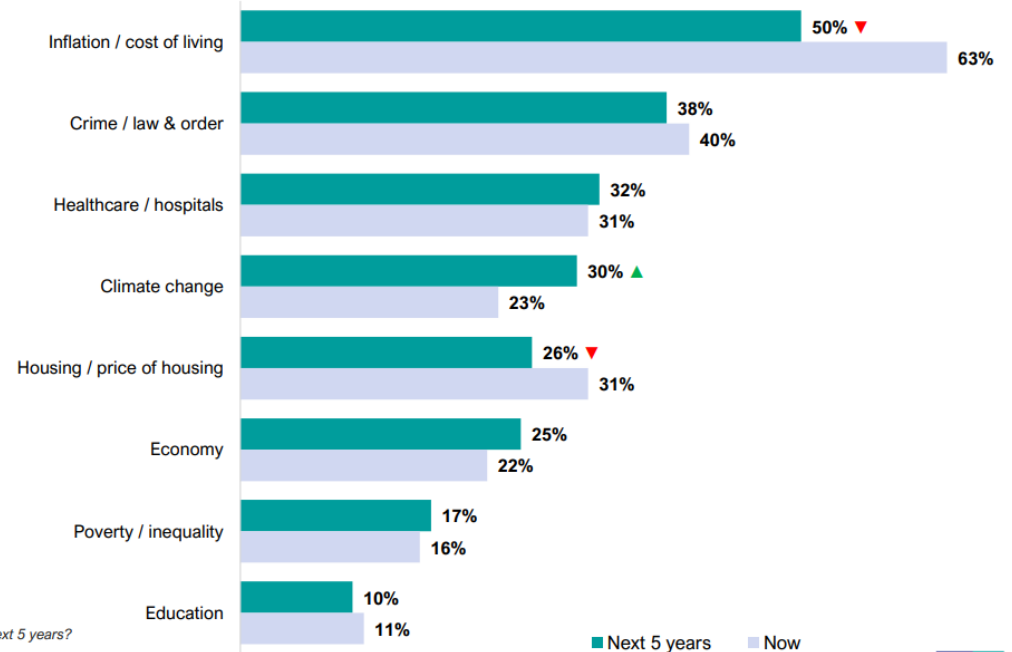
While longer term concerns about *inflation* are significantly lower than current levels, half of New Zealanders believe that it is the biggest issue the country will face over the next 5 years. New Zealanders' concern for *housing / price of housing* is also significantly lower in the longer term, as the issue drops to 5th position. However, future concern for *climate change* is significantly more pronounced, moving the issue to 4th.



Inflation / Cost of living remains the top issue for the next 5 years. Although it is significantly lower than its current level of concern, it is still much higher than any other issue.

Healthcare / hospitals (31%) and *crime / law & order* (31%) remain relatively stable when compared with today and take 2nd and 3rd place for issues of concern over the next 5 years.

Climate change is the issue that has the biggest increase in concern between now and in 5 years time, moving from 23% to 30%. *Healthcare / hospitals* and the *economy* are the other issues that more New Zealanders think we'll face over the next 5 years time than we are facing now.



Q: What would you say are the three most important issues facing New Zealand over the next 5 years?

Base: May '23 (n=1,002)

11 – © Ipsos | NZ Issues Monitor

▲ ▼ Indicates a significant increase / decrease compared to issues facing New Zealand today

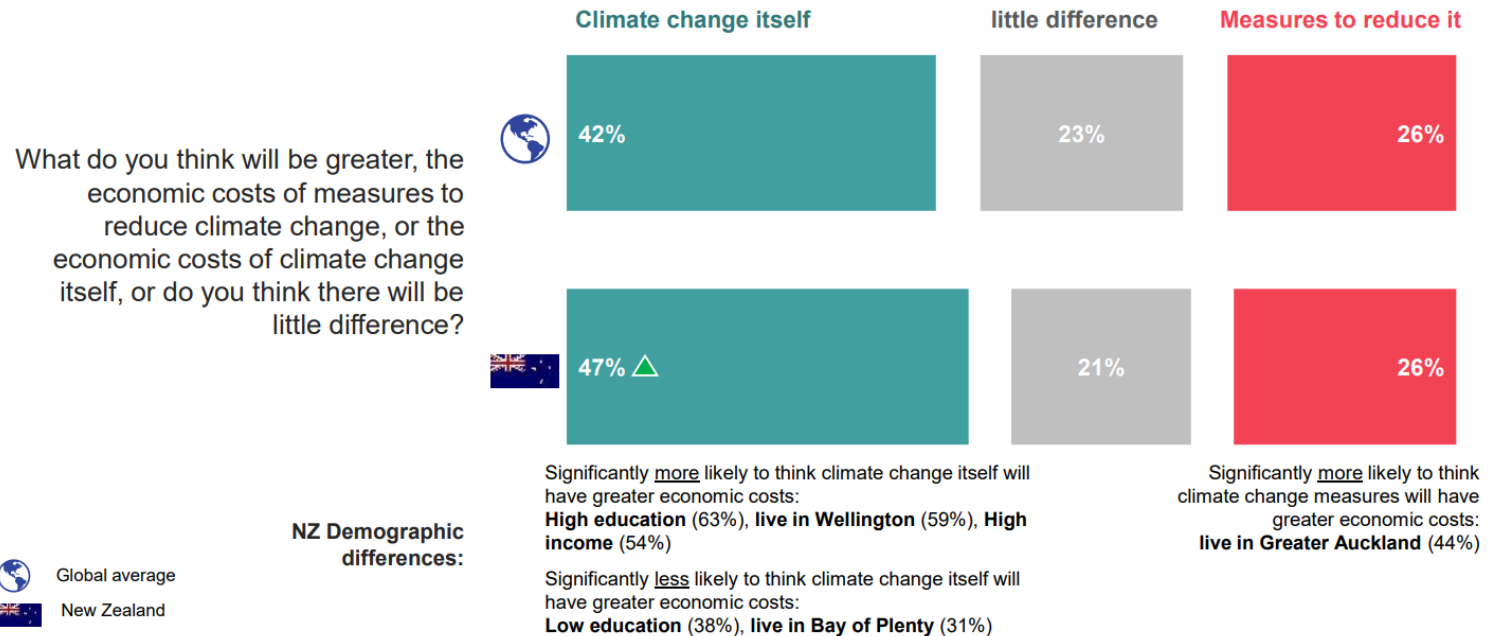


How concerned are people about tomorrow?

47% think it will be more costly not to act on climate change today

New Zealanders can understand the costs of inaction – again supporting action at a broad level.

Only 26% think that taking climate action will be more costly than the effects of climate change.



XP3: What do you think will be greater, the economic costs of measures to reduce climate change, or the economic costs of climate change itself, or do you think there will be little difference?

What do people expect from government?

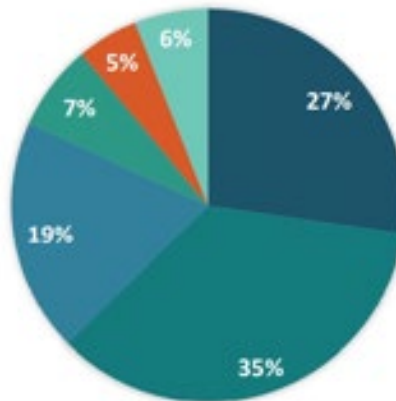
New Zealanders support emissions reductions

86% of people feel that the government is responsible for reducing carbon emissions.

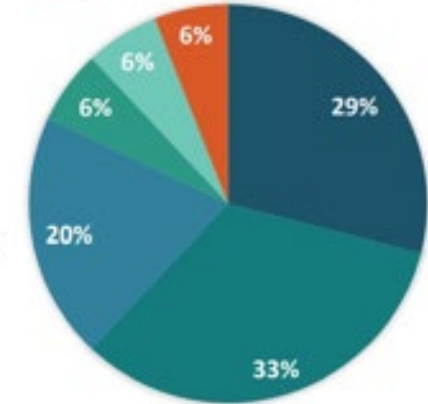
Are you supportive of reducing emissions?

BASELINE

Under the Paris agreement on climate change, New Zealand is currently committed to reducing emissions to 11% below 1990 levels by 2030. The current New Zealand Government has said that it intends to set a more ambitious target for reducing emissions. The targets would be set into law. To what extent do you support or oppose a more ambitious goal?



- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- I don't know what this means



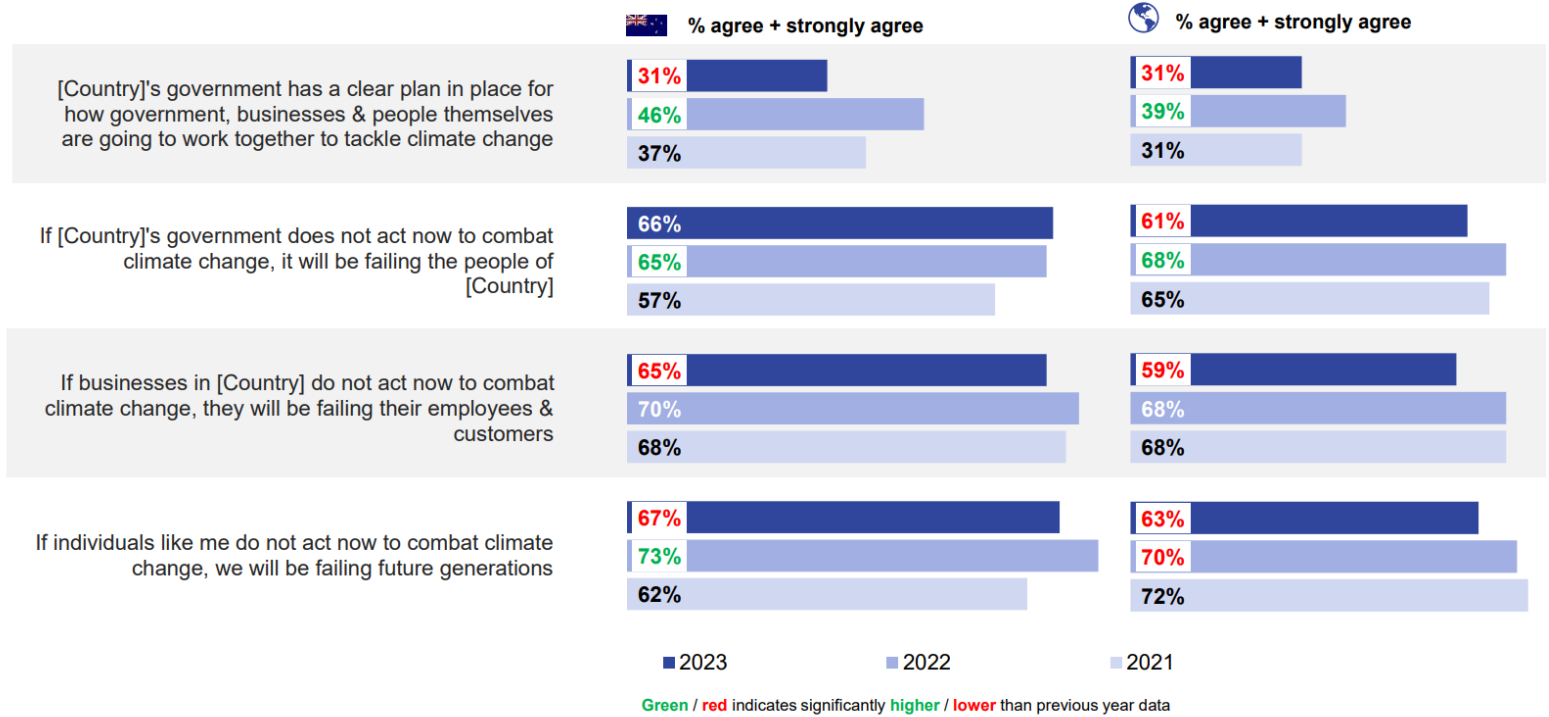
SEPTEMBER 2018

New Zealand's current 2050 target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. Recently, the Government consulted on a new, more ambitious 2050 target for reducing emissions. The targets would be set into law. To what extent do you support or oppose a more ambitious target?

What do people expect from government?

New Zealanders want action across all parts of society

Cost of living pressures may mean other issues have taken priority recently, but our sense of urgency to act on climate change is growing over time.

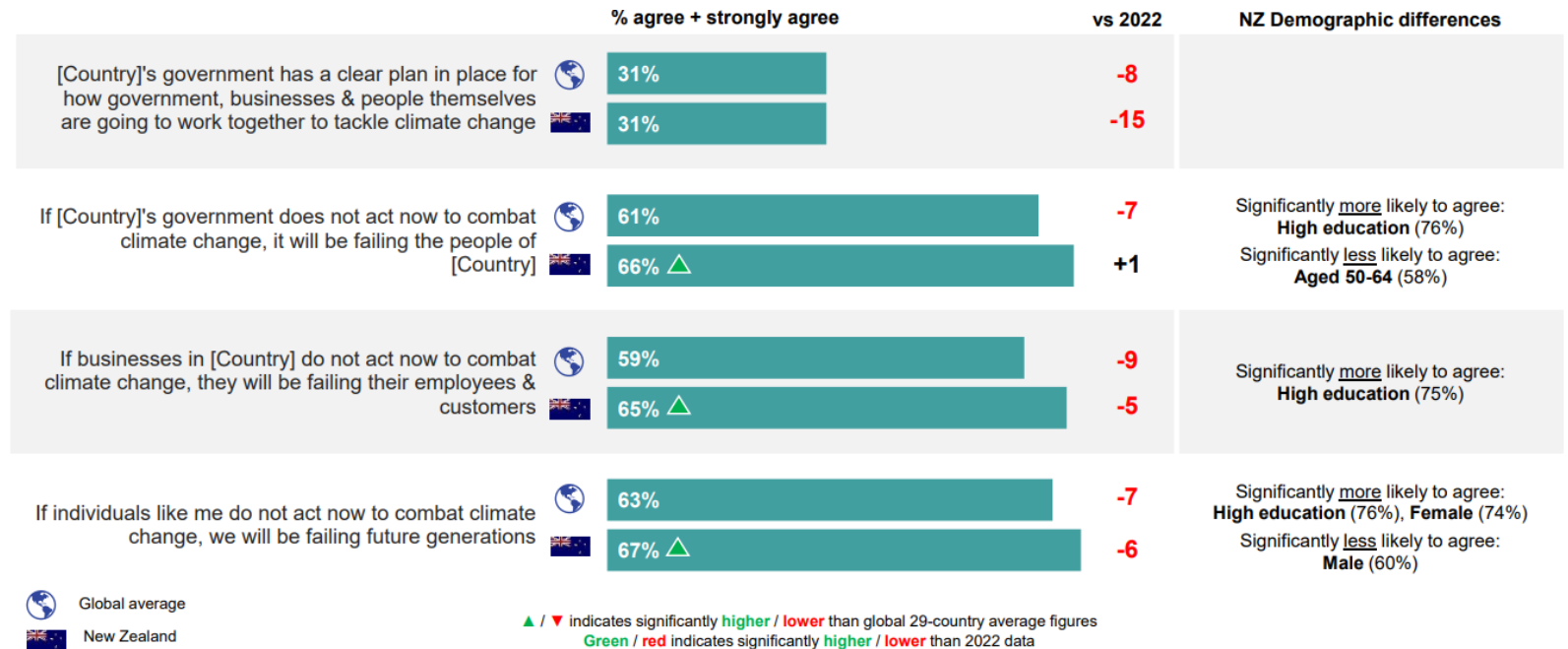


XP4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements...

What do people expect from government?

Expectation of government action has grown in 2023

66% of New Zealanders believe if our government does not act now to combat climate change, it will be failing New Zealanders.



XP4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements...
Base: 2023 – New Zealand (n=1,002), Global (21,231 online adults aged 16–74 across 29 countries, 20 Jan – 3 March 2023); 2022 – New Zealand (n=1,003), Global (n=22,534 online adults aged 16–74 across 29 countries, 18 Feb–4 Mar 2022). **Note:** Comparator countries are those that have been asked this question in 2022: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America.



What do people expect from government?

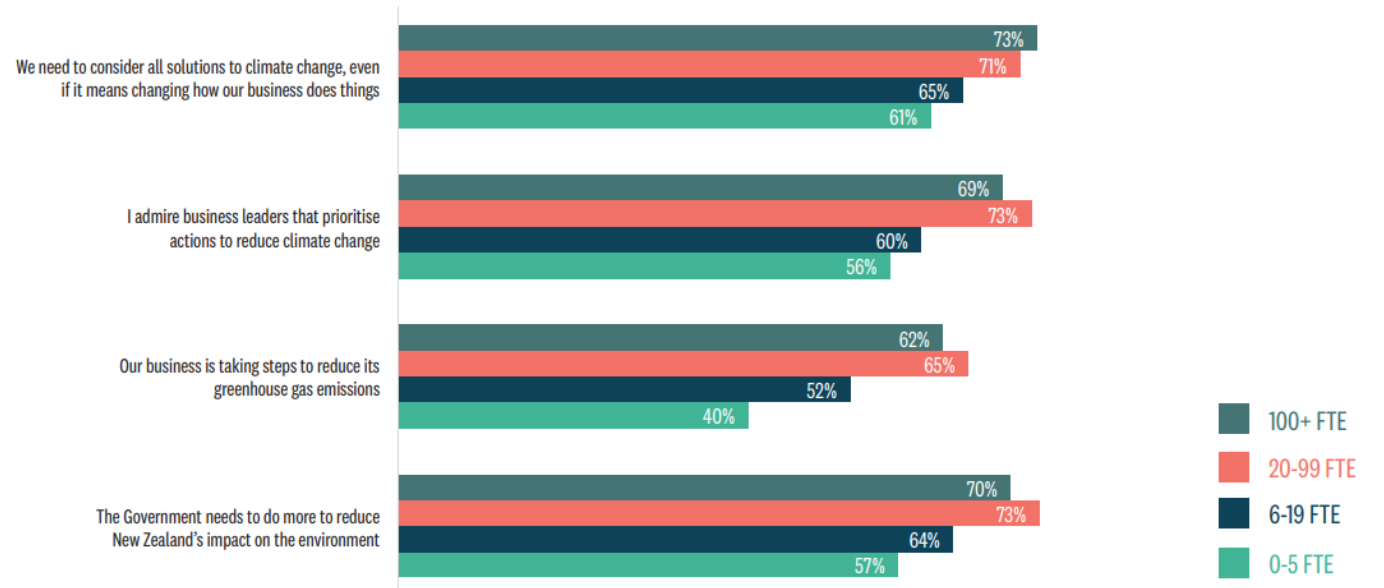
Larger businesses show greater support for government intervention

70% of larger businesses say the Government needs to do more to reduce New Zealand's impact on the environment.

Bigger businesses see their role as part of a larger system and support doing more.

Business climate beliefs by FTE

Agree / strongly agree (all data May 19 - May 23)



CLIMATE_BELIEFS. How much do you agree or disagree with below statements?
 Base: whole research period May 2019 - May 2023, 0-5 FTE range n=766-1,194, 6-19 FTE range n=515-689, 20-99 FTE range n=722-818, 100+ FTE range n=403-472

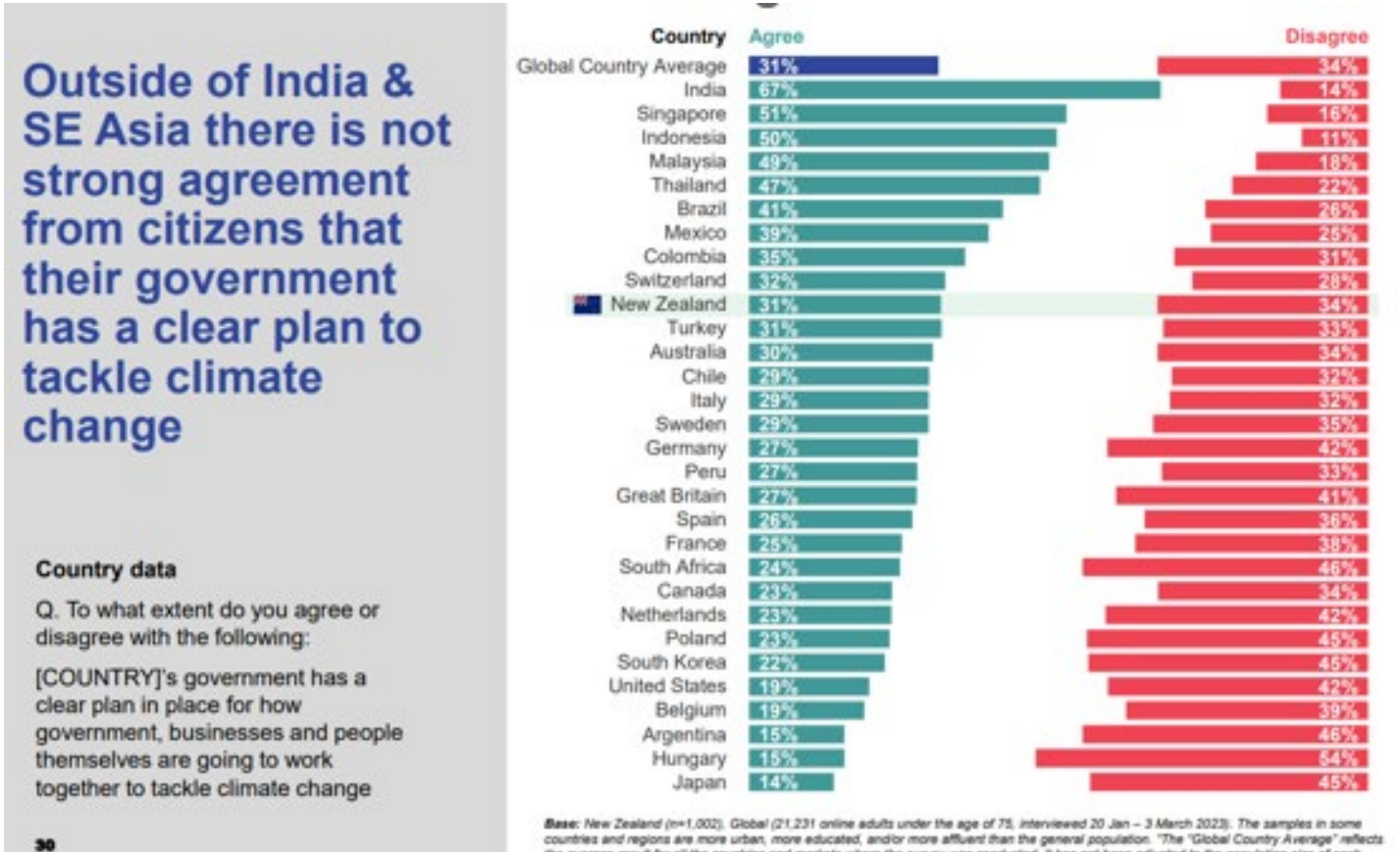


How is government meeting this expectation?

New Zealanders do not see a strong plan of action

New Zealanders support action but only 1 in 3 people believe government has a clear plan to tackle climate change (31%). This has dropped significantly in the last 12 months from 46% in 2022 and 37% in 2021.

We are not alone here, however.



How are people responding to climate change?

A mismatch between what people think is effective action and actual impacts

We know what climate action behaviours New Zealanders are taking – and that these are not often the most effective.

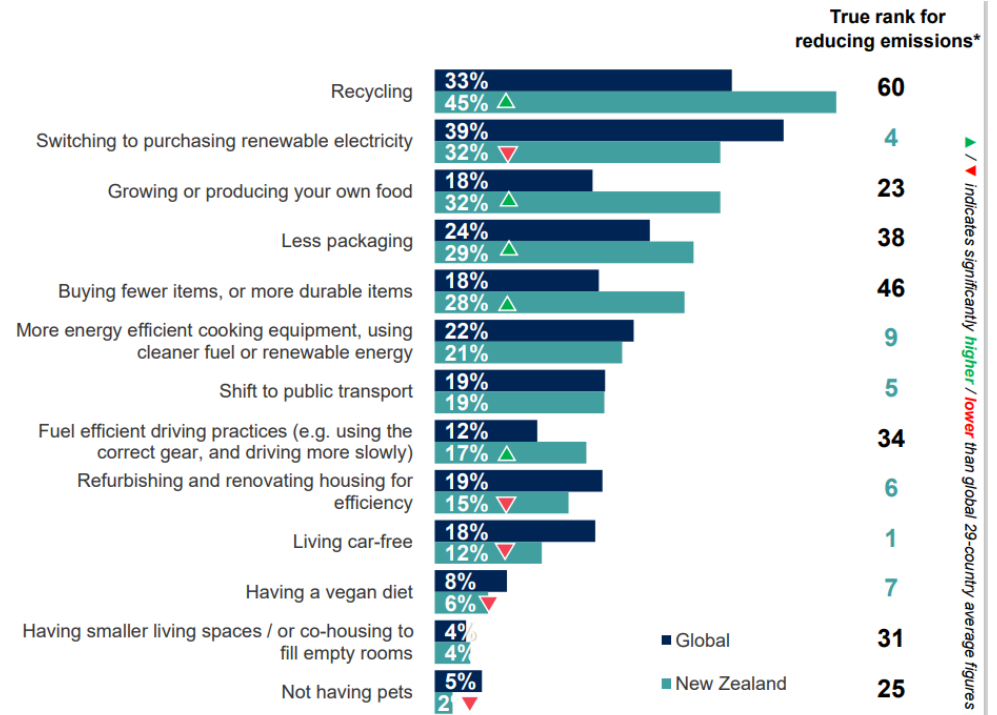
New Zealanders often do not know which actions are most effective in combatting climate change. But they can also be reluctant to take effective actions.

New Zealanders tend to overestimate the impact of personal actions that contribute less to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Country Average

Q. Below is a list of different ways in which households could change their behaviours to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions (or carbon footprints). Which three of the following actions, if any, do you think would have most impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

23



Base: New Zealand (n=1,002), Global (21,231 online adults under the age of 75, interviewed 20 Jan – 3 March 2023). The samples in some countries and regions are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. "The Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. * The 26 comparator countries include: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and USA

*Source: Ivanova et al., 2020. Quantifying the potential for climate change mitigation of consumption options. Available here: <https://ipsosscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab8589/pdf>



What are people willing to do?

A disconnect between beliefs and climate actions


In every category New Zealanders are below the global average of likeliness to make a change to limit their own contribution to climate change.


Significant barriers to action for New Zealanders:

- Lack of knowledge of what best to do
- Inability to act (perceived or actual)
- Reluctance to take individual actions

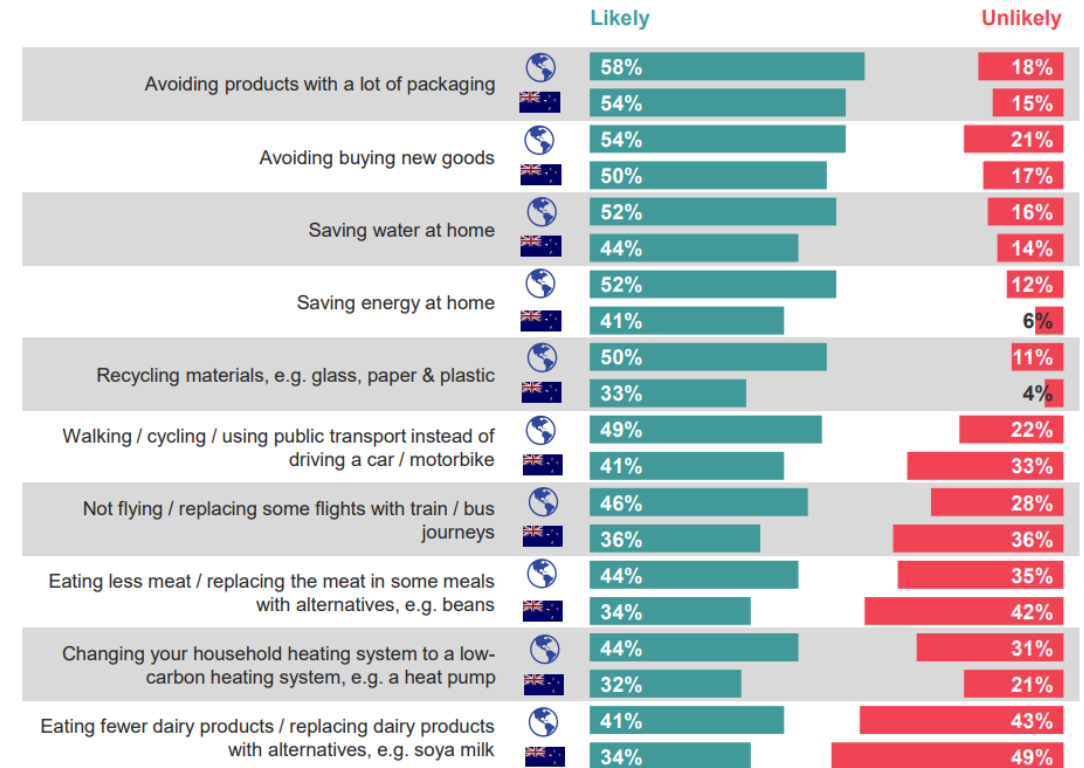
Compared to those around the world, New Zealanders remain less willing to *consume less meat & dairy or switch to more sustainable transport options*

Q. Thinking about things you might do in order to limit your own contribution to climate change, how likely or unlikely would you be to make the following changes within the next year?

 Global average

 New Zealand

25 © Ipsos | New Zealanders' Attitudes & Behaviours Towards Climate Change 2022



QTH1: Thinking about things you might do in order to limit your own contribution to climate change, how likely or unlikely would you be to make the following changes within the next year? Please select one answer in each row that applies.

Base: New Zealand (n=1,003), Global (n=23,577 online adults across 31 countries, 18 Feb–4 Mar 2022). **NB:** Surveyed adults aged 16–74 in 30 countries, adults aged 16–99 in Norway.



What are people willing to do?

Cost remains a key barrier to action

Worth noting, is that many people believe that things such as recycling alone is 'climate action'.

Some of those who say nothing gets in their way will likely include this group.

Climate action barriers



What are businesses willing to do?

Many haven't taken action, but want to

Taking steps to reduce emissions is growing over time and there is a desire to do more.

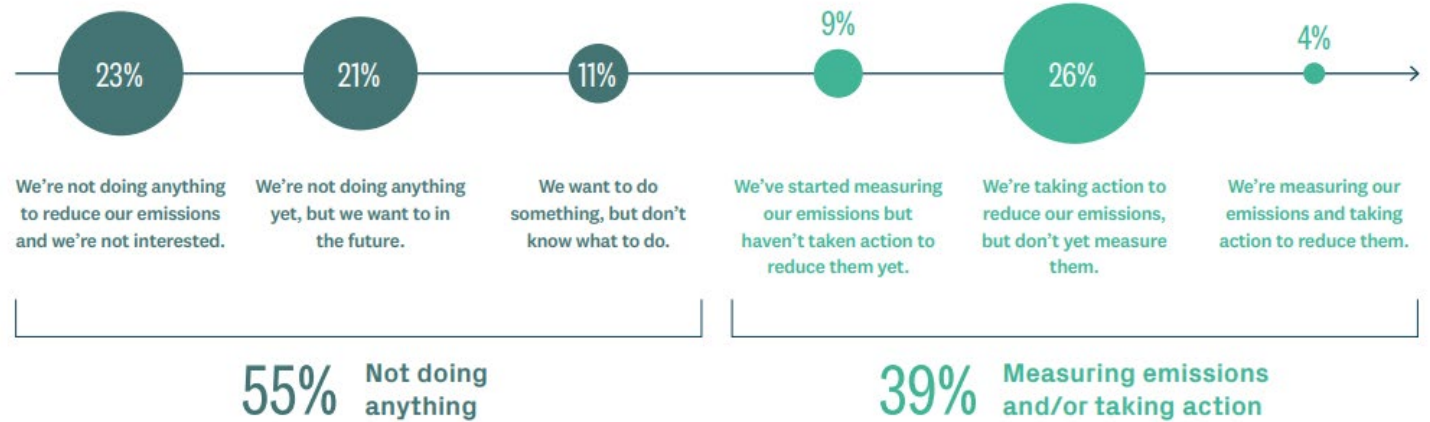
Businesses are driven by

- demand from customers
- public opinion
- to minimise supply chain
- to take advantage of opportunities

There are businesses who are already taking action – and more who want to

Actions

Climate Action Journey



CLIMATE_JOURNEY: What stage is your business at in taking action to reduce its carbon emissions?
Base: n=508

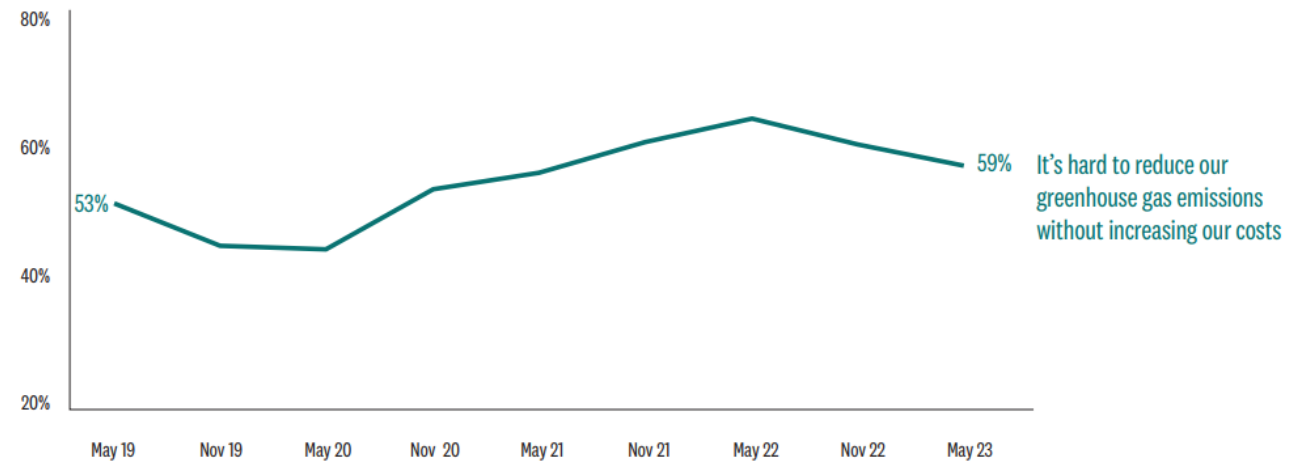


What are businesses willing to do?

Businesses connect climate action with increased costs

Over the past 4 years this perception has grown across businesses of all sizes, in all regions and across all sectors.

Business climate beliefs
Agree/Strongly Agree



CLIMATE_BELIEFS. How much do you agree or disagree with below statements? It's hard to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions without increasing our costs
Base: whole research period May 2019 – November 2022, May 19 n=480, Nov 19 n=490, May 20 n=476, Nov 20 n=479, May 21 n=597, Nov 21 n=490, May 22 n=518, Nov 22 n=498, May 23 n=508

EECA | TRA

Today's concern, for tomorrow's attention?

New Zealanders are split on whether now is the right time for action

While the majority expect government to act, 1 in 3 people believe it is not the right time with other pressures taking priority.

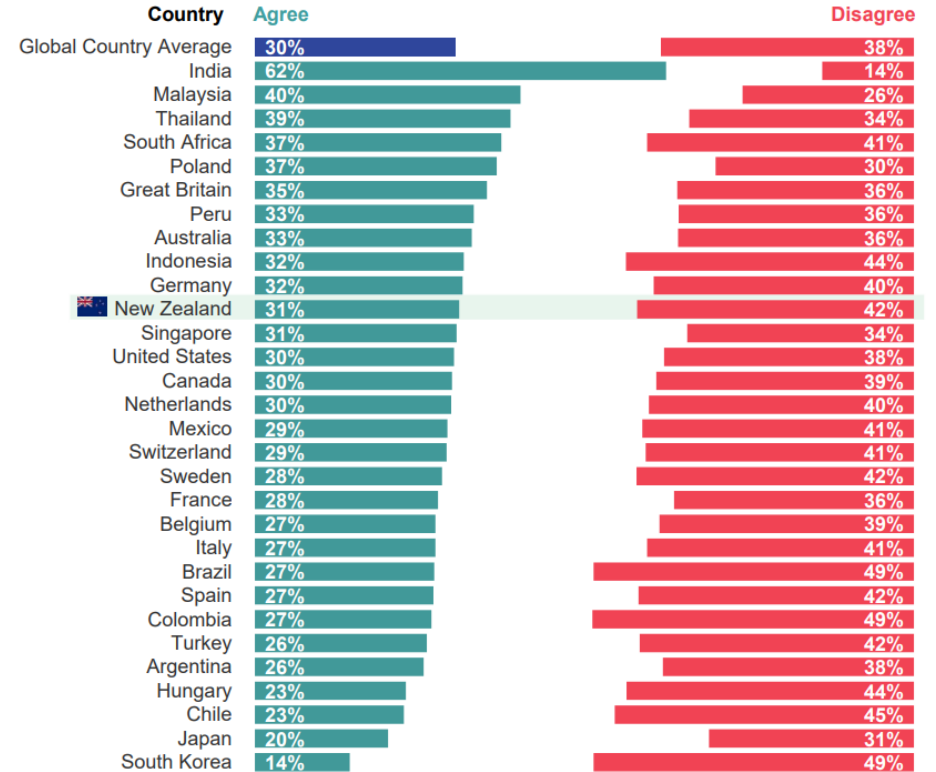
There is division on whether now is the right time, or not, to be investing in climate change

Country data

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following:

Now is not the right time to be investing in measures to reduce climate change given the tough economic conditions


46



Base: New Zealand (n=1,002), Global (21,231 online adults under the age of 75, interviewed 20 Jan – 3 March 2023). The samples in some countries and regions are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. "The "Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result."



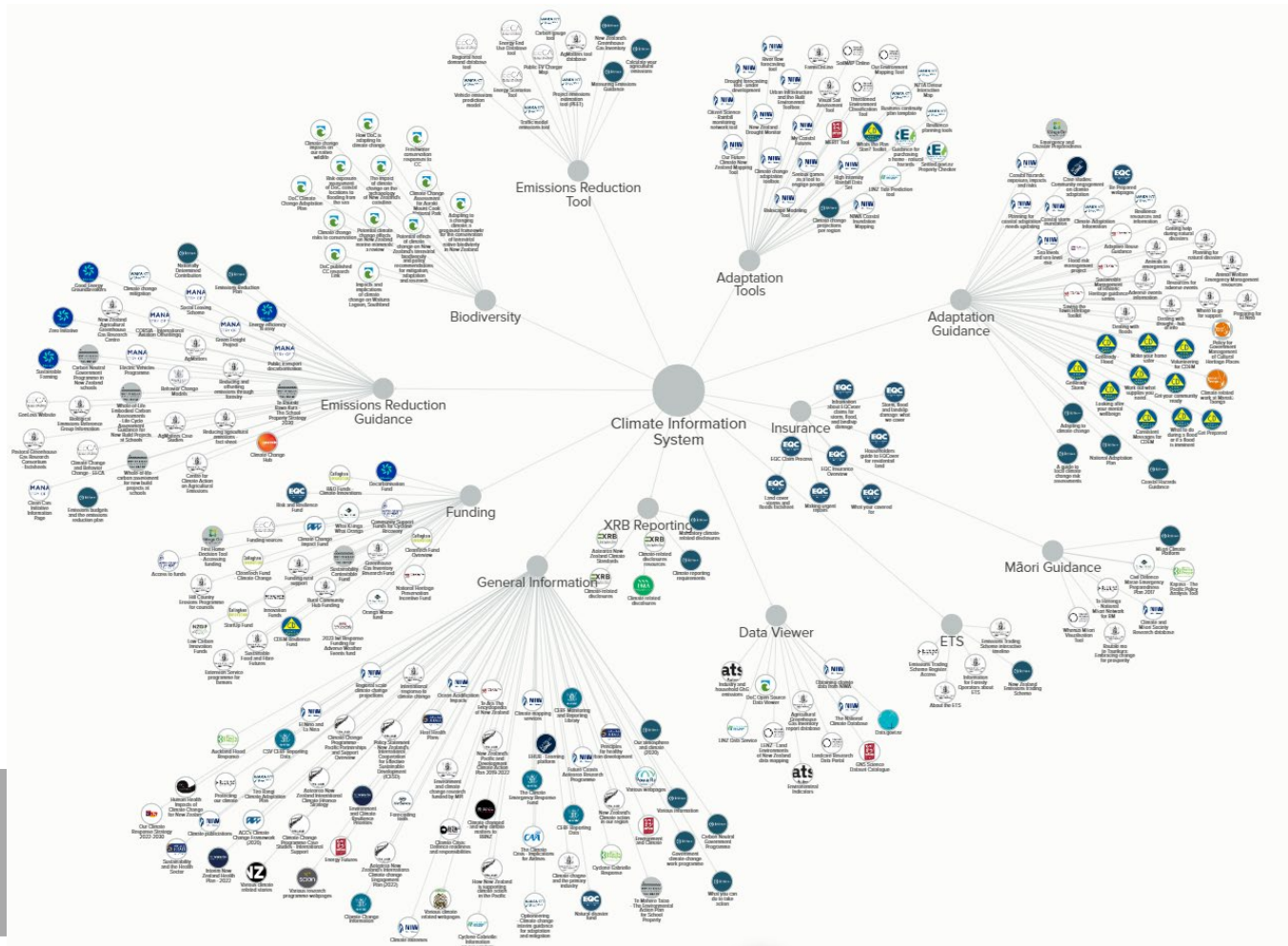
9(2)(f)(iv)



SEPTEMBER 2023



Climate information and landscape (a lot going on)



Next steps

Develop options based on Board feedback

SEPTEMBER 2023

9(2)(h)



DRAFT

