



17-O-01637

M Grainger
fyi-request-6854-76fc1b7e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M Grainger

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2017 via the FYI website requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Can you please supply the total costs to the NZ economy, per year until 2030, for all the climate change policies introduced by the new Government.

Please also indicate which public or private costs are excluded in the numbers supplied.

The scope of this request has been interpreted as capturing information that existed between 26 October 2017 (the date that the Government took office) and 19 November 2017 (the date of your request).

My office does not hold information outlining the total costs to the New Zealand economy, per year until 2030, for all of the climate change policies introduced by the new Government. Indeed, Cabinet has not yet confirmed the detailed specifics of many of the Government's intended plans. Therefore no documents fall within the scope of your request and I have declined your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

I can, however, point you to two recent reports public on the Ministry for the Environment website, which set out some of the challenges and costs that climate change is already causing in New Zealand. These reports are *Adapting to climate change in New Zealand: Stocktake report from the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group* (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/adapting-climate-change-new-zealand-stocktake-report-climate-change>) and *Preparing for coastal change: A summary of coastal hazards and climate change guidance for local government* (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/22924>). The later report suggests that more than 43,000 homes and a total of \$19 billion worth of buildings could be at risk from sea level rise due to climate change. It would be inappropriate to consider the costs and benefits of reducing New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change, in isolation from the costs and benefits brought by the changing climate.

Officials are working on modelling the costs and benefits to the economy of greenhouse gas emissions reductions (mitigation). You may be interested in the 2015 economic modelling of the impacts on the New Zealand economy undertaken before signing up to the Paris Agreement, available on the Ministry for the Environment website:

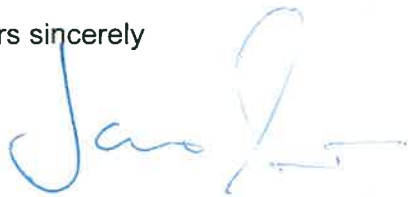
- A general equilibrium analysis of options for New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/general-equilibrium-analysis-options-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate>
- Modelling the economic impact of New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/modelling-economic-impact-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-post-2020-climate-change>

I consider that there were shortfalls in this modelling and it is now out of date, and I have asked officials for more comprehensive, up to date modelling to inform the choices our new Government will make. I intend to make this modelling public in due course, to encourage public conversations informed by robust evidence.

I see our response to climate change as one of the greatest economic opportunities we face as a country. Our transition to a low-emissions economy has the potential to create sustainable jobs and wealth for New Zealanders. For example, global demand for clean energy and low-emissions food and fibre is growing fast, and New Zealand businesses and farmers face huge opportunities in these sectors. I have seen reports that in the United States, jobs in the solar energy sector are growing 17 times faster than the rest of the US economy. I look forward to job growth in clean industries in New Zealand.

Under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon James Shaw
Minister for Climate Change