

# BRIEFING: AOTEAROA EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

## 31 AUGUST 2022 – 5.08PM

### ATTENDEES

**Elected Members:** Mayor Barry (Chair until 5.40pm), Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Hislop, Deputy Mayor Lewis (Chair from 5.40pm), Cr Mitchell, Cr Shaw, Cr Sutton and Virginia Horrocks (via audio-visual link, part meeting).

**Staff:** A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities (via audio-visual link), A Gordon, Senior Policy Advisor (part meeting, via audio-visual link), J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer (via audio-visual link, part meeting), K Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor and J Randall, Democracy Advisor.

### PRESENTERS

P Zee, Climate Action Pathway Lead and J Scherzer, Head of Climate and Solid Waste.

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE BRIEFING

The purpose of the briefing is to provide a high-level overview of the government's Emissions Reduction Plan and explain its relevance to Council, with particular emphasis on emissions budgets.

### PRESENTATION BY THE CLIMATE ACTION PATHWAY LEAD AND THE HEAD OF CLIMATE AND SOLID WASTE

**Slide 1 (Header):** What does the Aotearoa Emission Reduction Plan (AERP) mean for Hutt City Council

**Slide 2 – What we will cover** – the principles, emissions budgets, relevant areas of the emissions reduction plan and examples of how Council's work aligns with the AERP.

**Slide 3 – Principles** – principles that underpin the AERP.

**Slide 4 – Emissions budgets** – graph shows the scale and pace of change expected. If most of the work on climate change is not done in the next eight years, predicted climate change impacts are inevitable.

**Slide 5 – The role of local government** – the AERP acknowledges councils make important decisions that can impact collective goals.

**Slide 6 – Lower Hutt's emissions** – emissions profile.

- Slide 7 – Planning and infrastructure** – a focus on housing density, green finance, better evidence and tools for decision making and nature-based solutions.
- Slide 8 – Transport** – A reduction of 41% in transport emissions is sought by 2035. A focus on projects under Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy to create mode shifts, including EV stations, shared paths and bike parking.
- Slide 9 – Energy use and generation** – a goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2030.
- Slide 10 – Circular economy and waste** – changes are underway to reduce waste and make opportunities available to the community to re-use and recover resources.
- Slide 11 – Education, participation and awareness** - a need to enable inclusive and participatory climate responses and support localised community-based solutions. Co-design and co-implementation work has begun.
- Slide 12 – Gaps for Hutt City Council** – information needed to inform planning, more understanding of Council’s role in communicating and the resources needed, more thought given to Māori-led and nature-based solutions.
- Slide 13 – Summary** – Council is leading the way in some areas but there are gaps.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- Transport will provide the biggest emission reductions for Council. Some reductions can be made by making more use of technology such as electric vehicles. Cycleways will grow in use as the city becomes more densely populated. Slowing vehicle speeds will also help. Other emission reductions will be through more efficient and passive housing and home heating.
- Council needs to support the public’s understanding of changes needed to create emission reductions, especially the importance of implementing system changes.
- Emission reductions need long-term solutions - slips and floods are caused by decisions made many years ago. Adaptations such as sea walls will not work in the long-term and are expensive.
- Council has not embedded emission reductions into contracts. Reasons are a lack of alternatives; contractors are not always asked to change or are rewarded for change; and contract renewals can be slow.
- The District Plan will play a key role in determining how new developments are constructed, but it is more difficult to make changes to existing houses.

- In the past Council has prioritised cost effectiveness, but the long-term environmental costs of decisions made on that basis can be significant.
- Developers do not always want the upfront costs of sustainable housing. Changes to the Building Act will result in more sustainable features and ‘green’ buildings.
- It is not easy to turn Council’s priorities into action. A range of measures are needed to begin change from within the organisation.
- The District Plan is where changes can be made to better protect trees.
- Council’s emissions’ budgets are on track regarding energy use, vehicles and Council facilities. Council needs to work more on procurement. The emissions from contracted services will need to be halved by 2030. IT is an area that still needs investigation, but it is not an easy fix.
- City wide emissions can be nudged by working regionally and providing more electrified transport and cycleways. Government needs to do more to assist the private sector to decarbonise.

## **NEXT STEPS**

When new Councillors are inducted, make sure the urgency of climate change is understood so that it becomes a priority.

## **BRIEFING MATERIALS**

**Attachment 1** – Powerpoint: Government emissions reduction plan

The briefing closed at 6.02 pm