



POLITICS (/NEWS/POLITICAL) / ENVIRONMENT (/NEWS/ENVIRONMEN

Climate Change Commission urges new target

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(Cardwell, H. & Palmer, R., 2023)



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subject=Climate%20Change%20Commission%20urges%20new%20targets%20without%20forestry%20in%20new%20report



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Rod Carr Photo: RNZ / Dom Thomas

The government's plans to cut emissions will not be enough to meet its own targets, the Climate Change Commission says, once again warning we can't plant our way to success.

In a major change, it has for the first time called for additional, concrete targets for emissions reductions that exclude the benefits provided by planting trees.

This could mean more emphasis on reduction efforts, rather than forestry investment alone.

Commission chair Rod Carr warned changes would be needed to get back on track to the government's goals.

"Our current pathway of policies will not get us there," he said.

It's part of draft advice released by the Commission (<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/advice-for-preparation-of-emissions-reduction-plans/2023-draft-advice-to-inform-the-strategic-direction-of-the-governments-second-emissions-reduction-plan-april-2023/>) in a nearly 200-page report on how to slash enough emissions in the 2026-2030 period to be on track to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The report covered what the Commission viewed as the most critical areas that urgently needed to be strengthened in that time, and broadly concluded deeper and quicker cuts were needed in some areas.

It called for quicker action on new renewable energy generation and electric vehicle charging infrastructure; more investment in public transport; direct funding for Māori to support emissions reduction; more support for farmers to transition, and a faster transition away from burning coal for heating in factories, schools and hospitals.

It included some timeframes, like completing cycleway networks in cities by the end of the decade. Rapid transport networks like light rail and bus lanes should also be progressed so they are on track for completion by 2035.

RNZ / Marika Khabazi

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