

OC220156

29 March 2022

Tēnā koe

I refer to your email dated 1 March 2022, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“GPS 2021 states in Clause 67: Investment decisions will support the rapid transition to a low carbon transport system, and contribute to a resilient transport sector that reduces harmful emissions, **giving effect to the emissions reduction target the Climate Change Commission recommended to Cabinet until emissions budgets are released in 2021 [now May 2022 I believe].**”*

Can you please advise what *emissions reduction targets* for land transport has MoT taken from the CCC recommendations?

If these reduction targets do not align with demonstration path emission budgets for transport per Figure 7.5 (pg 105 and repeated in Chapter 5 on pg 82) of the CCC Advice (further broken down in the attached CCC spreadsheet, see: “Demonstration path” tab, row 367), can you please advise why not, given the CCC advice on pg 99, para 2: **“We used the demonstration path to calculate the level of the first three emissions budgets which are set out in Chapter 5: Recommended emissions budgets.”**

I have not identified any documents within scope of the request. Given this, you will find my response below:

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021 (“the GPS”) was published in September 2020, before the Climate Change Commission (“the Commission”) finalised its recommendations in 2021.

Section 2.5 of the GPS outlines the primary outcome for the climate change strategic priority within the GPS. The primary outcome is stated to be environmental sustainability, with co-benefits of inclusive access, healthy and safe people, and resilience and security. Paragraph 67 provides more detail on the primary outcome of environmental sustainability.

Paragraph 67 (within section 2.5) of the GPS refers to “the emissions reduction target the Climate Change Commission recommended to Cabinet.” The Commission’s advice did not identify an emissions reduction target. Instead, the advice:

- recommended overall emissions budgets for New Zealand; and
- contained a demonstration pathway (with two alternative pathways “A” and “B”) that set out measures and actions within each sector that would deliver the Commission’s recommended emissions budgets. The spreadsheet you

cited in your request sets out the modelled reduction in emissions under the demonstration pathway. The demonstration pathway is not a target.

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport understand the demonstration pathway set out by the Commission, if followed, is based on reducing transport emissions by 13 percent by 2030, and 41 percent by 2035 (compared to 2019 levels). However, this is *across* the transport system, not limited only to land transport.

Some potential specific transport emissions targets were set out in *Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate resilient future*, the emissions reduction plan consultation document (<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Emissions-reduction-plan-discussion-document.pdf>), as follows:

- Reduce emissions from freight transport by 25 percent by 2035;
 - Reduce the emissions intensity of transport fuel by 15 percent by 2035.
- We note this is not limited to land transport.

These were developed from a general understanding of the Commission's demonstration pathway, and consultation undertaken on the Green Paper *Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi: Transport Emissions – Pathways to Net Zero by 2050* (<https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Discussion/DiscussiondocumentHikinatekohuparaKiamaurioraaiteiwiTransportEmissionsPathwaystoNetZeroby2050.pdf>).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Tim Herbert
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