



## New Zealand: **NDC We Don't Want**

On April 22, 2020, New Zealand has submitted to the UNFCCC an “update of New Zealand’s Nationally determined Contribution”, in response to paragraphs 24 and 25 of decision 1/CP.21 <sup>1</sup>. Although formally considered an updated NDC, our view is that New Zealand’s submission does not comply with the guidance on decisions 1/CP.21 and 4/CMA.1 <sup>2</sup>.

However, we did analyze it against the #NDCsWeWant checklist, as the document presents information on domestic advances since the 2015 NDC and mentions that *“the Minister for Climate Change has requested the Climate Change Commission to provide advice and recommendations to the Government on whether the NDC should change to make it consistent with the global 1.5°C temperature goal and, if so, how. The Climate Change Commission will be providing its advice in early 2021”*. We will update this analysis once a new communication is submitted to the UNFCCC.

Following the 2017 election, New Zealand has taken strong action on environmental issues. The country has stopped granting new offshore oil and gas exploration permits and enacted the Zero Carbon Act with almost unanimous support from Parliament in 2019. Although the submission hints at the possibility of an ambition enhancement in 2021, targets are the same of the previous NDC and information on most of the #NDCsWeWant criteria is not presented. We therefore consider New Zealand’s NDC an **NDC We Don't Want**.

The Commission’s advice – if it recommends stepping up the target – could be a game changer if the government decides to do it **before COP 26**.

### Advances

New Zealand enacted legislation in late 2019 that provides the enabling conditions for enhanced climate action. The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act has:

- set a new domestic target to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (other than biogenic methane) to zero by 2050, and for biogenic methane (10% below 2017 levels by 2030 and 24-47% below 2017 levels by 2050);
- established a framework for a series of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target, and plans and policies to achieve them;
- established regular measures to plan for the impacts of climate change in a coordinated way, including a national climate change risk assessment and a national adaptation plan;
- established a new, independent Climate Change Commission in December 2019 to provide expert advice and monitoring, with the goal of helping keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.

<sup>1</sup> Those paragraphs call on Parties to communicate or update their NDCs by 2020 9 to 12 months in advance of the relevant COP.

<sup>2</sup> Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21

## Gaps

New Zealand's NDC does not enhance its climate ambition, does not comply with 4/CMA.1 and does not address key issues for the #NDCsWeWant such as ambition, fostering systems change, inclusiveness and participation and contribution to sustainable development.



### For more information

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