

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

15 June 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

National recognises the importance to New Zealanders – current and future – of addressing climate change and responsibly playing our part in a global response.

In order to drive long-lasting change, broad and enduring political support is needed for New Zealand's climate change framework – on the institutional arrangements we put in place.

I am writing to you today to offer to work together to find cross-party support to establish an independent, non-political Climate Change Commission to support a reduction in New Zealand's carbon emissions.

The design of the Climate Change Commission will be critical. National believe it should be advisory only – with the Government of the day taking final decisions on policy responses. We also want to work through a number of other issues, such as ensuring the Commission has appropriate consideration for economic impacts as well as environmental, and that the process for appointments to the Commission is also bipartisan.

I am confident that we can work constructively together to establish an enduring non-political framework for future governments and parliaments when considering climate change issues.

Of course, getting the institutional arrangements right is necessary but not sufficient – there will be ongoing debate and differing views about the specific steps and policies to reduce emissions over time. National want practical, sensible solutions,

not extreme policies that could damage the economy and unnecessarily drive up costs for Kiwi households.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bridges', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Simon Bridges
Leader of the Opposition

CC: Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change
Todd Muller, National Party Climate Change Spokesperson