



Engineers for Social Responsibility Inc.
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7 October 2021

New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for COP26

Dear Hon Minister James Shaw,

We would like to ask you to present at the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November 2021 a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for New Zealand, that is far stronger than the current one made under the 2015 Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit global heating **to 1.5 °C**, compared to pre-industrial levels.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in their 2018 Special Report on Global Warming, said that by 2030 net carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions need to fall by around 45% below 2010 levels. As a developed country with the necessary skills and resources, and very high emissions per capita, New Zealand can and needs to aim considerably higher than what the IPCC says is required. But to date our response to addressing climate change has been pretty feeble. By 2019 our net emissions had risen 34% above 1990 levels, and they are still not showing any serious sign of starting to fall.

Our current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which we made in 2016 under the Paris Agreement, and still the only figure known to the COP26 conference, is appallingly weak. It says we are undertaking to reduce our emissions over the 2021-2030 period to 30% below 2005 levels. But what was not clearly stated is that the reduction was based on a comparison of gross emissions in 2005 with net emissions in 2030. In terms of consistent net-net measurements, it was actually an undertaking to increase our net emissions by 1% over this time period.

In the attachment we are providing further details on required emissions reductions as well as suggestions on how to achieve them.

In light of the increasing effects of global heating there is no time to be wasted. The current international commitments in front of COP26 are insufficient to avoid a catastrophic climate crisis. We urge you, as New Zealand's Minister for Climate Change, to take up a leading role to achieve emissions reduction targets that have a chance to limit global heating to **1.5 °C**.

Kind regards

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ESR, President

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Attachment: *New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Emissions Budgets Need Urgent Review*. Engineers for Social Responsibility document to be published on www.esr.org.nz.