

30 November 2020

To: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern
Minister James Shaw
Minister David Parker
Minister Grant Robertson
Minister Stuart Nash

Climate Emergency Declaration must back business transformation

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

I am writing on behalf of the Sustainable Business Network, and investors, in support of a declaration of a climate emergency. **To be meaningful, the declaration of a national Climate Change emergency must trigger more government investment, to make it easier for businesses to act.**

A growing number of businesses across Aotearoa New Zealand are taking action on climate change. But to engage all business, and community, we need help to make this easier.

This is a leadership opportunity. but it must be supported by stronger policy, and greater investment. This includes investment in restoring our waterways and landscapes. It means the government helping to raise business sustainability standards among its own suppliers .

That is how New Zealand will meet its stated goals and aspirations. This is how we will meaningfully respond to climate change.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to take these necessary steps now. We can secure multi-sector advantages. The world is crying out for solutions.

The science is unequivocal. All countries, particularly industrialised nations like Aotearoa New Zealand, must take drastic action now to avert climate disaster. The Government must take immediate action to put New Zealand's emissions on a pathway to contain global warming to 1.5 degrees. This means a comprehensive plan to reduce our net emissions by 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2050. It must fully implement the advice from the Climate Change Commission when it is delivered in May 2021.

It's clear that business will be at the heart of that action.

SBN's work is focused on creating a low carbon circular economy. Delivering this will secure a just transition and long-term prosperity for our people. It will design out waste. It will keep materials in use. It will restore and regenerate our waterways and landscapes.

As a network we are leading a number of public-private collaborations. We are creating a comprehensive climate action tool kit for the nation's small and medium sized businesses. We are

working to reduce the negative impacts of how New Zealand businesses currently produce, use and manage plastic packaging. We are facilitating the planting of hundreds of thousands of native plants and trees along New Zealand's waterways. We are generating much needed employment in work that helps restore our country's landscapes.

All of this work urgently needs support to scale at a rate commensurate with the challenges we face. There is a tremendous amount of willingness to act, and much more to be done.

There's an immediate need for clear signals and concrete investment for these necessary initiatives. There are difficult decisions and just transitions to be made.

Let's do it together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB' with a stylized flourish.

Rachel Brown ONZM

Founder and CEO, Sustainable Business Network