

4 May 2025



CLIMATE  
LEADERS  
COALITION

ON A MISSION TO REDUCE  
EMISSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

Dear CLC Signatories,

The landscape of business leadership is rapidly changing. As CEOs, we're being asked to lead through more uncertainty, complexity, and scrutiny than ever before. We know climate action is no longer a 'nice to have' - it's a defining part of how our stakeholders judge performance, how our organisations stay competitive, and how we build long-term resilience.

The role of the Climate Leaders Coalition has never been more important in shaping the future of business and of generations to come. I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've been on together, before looking to the future work ahead.

Signatories have helped shape the climate response in Aotearoa New Zealand and have firmly positioned business as part of the solution. Thanks to your collective leadership and commitment, the Coalition has:

- Championed the business case for climate action and made climate leadership a mainstream expectation of New Zealand business.
- Raised the cross-sector and cross-party support needed to support a net-zero 2050 target in legislation.
- Delivered two successive Statements of Ambition, underpinned by commitments to measure and reduce emissions, support transparency, and embed climate into governance and strategy.
- Facilitated a platform for members to learn from one another, share their journeys, and showcase what leadership looks like in practice.
- Maintained one of the largest CEO-led climate coalitions globally, representing over 30% of New Zealand's GDP.

We should all be immensely proud of this work.

As the economic and political environments change, so must the Coalition.

We're now operating in a far more complex and dynamic landscape. While our goal remains clear, the pathway to achieve this is less certain. Pressure is increasing on businesses to deliver climate outcomes while navigating economic headwinds, shifting political signals, and growing expectations from customers, investors, and communities.

In this environment, it's timely for us to ask: what's next for CLC? What's our unique value? And how do we ensure we remain an influential and effective coalition - not just in ambition, but in impact?

Over the past few months, we've begun to explore these questions with our signatories through a series of workshops, direct engagement with signatory CEOs, and conversations within the Steering Group.

The insights you've shared with us are already shaping the next phase of our journey, and your voice will be critical in co-creating the future of the Climate Leaders Coalition. Over the coming financial year we will be continuing this important work, and together we will:

- **Redefine our purpose and impact:** Help us sharpen CLC's strategic direction by identifying where we can collectively drive the greatest change and define what success looks like for climate leadership in business.
- **Co-create a renewed Statement of Ambition:** Be part of shaping a refreshed ambition that reflects today's challenges, tomorrow's opportunities, and the leadership role businesses must play.

- **Recommit to bold action:** Reaffirm Net Zero 2050 as our minimum baseline and work together to stretch further, enabling leading businesses to set the pace for others to follow.
- **Deepen CEO-level engagement:** Collaborate with fellow leaders through more meaningful, action-oriented engagements that influence the wider business community.
- **Lead in partnership:** Define how CLC amplifies, complements, and accelerates wider climate efforts and where our collective leadership is most needed.
- **Track progress with purpose:** Help us build a simple, transparent framework to measure our progress, celebrate success, and hold ourselves accountable.

This is not just a strategic reset; it's a moment to recommit to the power of collective leadership. We are here to demonstrate that when business leads with integrity, pragmatism and purpose, it can help drive enduring climate solutions.

To formally launch the renewed direction, **Genesis Energy** has partnered with CLC to host a **CEO-only breakfast** at the **Climate Change and Business Conference** on **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025** - an opportunity to reconnect, share perspectives, and look ahead together. Our teams will send you an invitation shortly.

Alongside this important work determining the future direction of the Coalition, we will of course be continuing our critical advocacy work alongside the Sustainable Business Council. Through our collective business voice, we will work to influence continued ambitious bipartisan government climate policy for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Coalition. Your leadership is what gives CLC its strength, credibility, and influence. I look forward to working with you as we shape the next chapter of this journey together.

Ngā mihi nui,



Malcolm Johns

**Convenor, Climate Leaders Coalition & Genesis CEO**