



ON A MISSION TO REDUCE  
EMISSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

Strategy 2020-2025

# A word from our convenor

The Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC) was established in July 2018 to promote business leadership and collective action on the issue of climate change.

In December 2019, the Government passed the Zero Carbon Act with bi-partisan support, and established a Climate Change Commission. This provides a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and allow New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.

To demonstrate their commitment to climate action, CLC signatories sign up to one or more Statements, the first set in 2017 and a second more ambitious one set in 2019 with potential for more in the future. These statements are the foundations of the CLC.

With that framework in place, we have now shifted to an action-orientated stage of New Zealand's response to climate change. Meaningful progress from business on mitigation and adaptation is required to generate momentum. For CLC signatories this means a focus on delivery and demonstration of timely progress against their commitments.

CLC signatories believe there are also many positive business reasons for businesses to take action on climate change, beyond regulatory or moral imperatives. Action on climate change reduces risk, decreases long-term costs, and can boost competitive advantages and brand loyalty.

The economic impacts of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic presents risks to climate action, as government and business resources are focussed elsewhere. This further heightens the need for continued business leadership on climate action.



**Mike Bennetts**  
CLC Convenor

## Strategy: 2020 – 2025

The CLC's steering group and the Sustainable Business Council's (SBC's) Advisory Board will align strategically and share operations to have maximum impact, while preserving the distinct identity and purpose of each entity.

The SBC strategy 2020 – 2025 is a companion document to this one. It outlines SBC's action on climate change and how it will work with the CLC.

The CLC will become a sub-brand of SBC. This means:

- CLC and SBC share a vision.
- CLC will have its own distinctive mission and purpose, remain CEO-led, and have its own Convenor and steering group of CEOs.
- SBC will provide operational and administrative support to the CLC.
- SBC's Executive Director can represent the CLC when appropriate.
- Organisations can continue to sign-up to the CLC, without being a SBC member and vice versa.
- Services and resources for SBC members/CLC signatories may be shared to maximise impact.

# Our strategy

## CLC/SBC SHARED VISION

A New Zealand where business, people and nature thrive together.

## MISSION

CEOs leading the response to climate change through collective, transparent and meaningful action on mitigation and adaptation.

## PURPOSE

To build irreversible momentum in New Zealand towards a zero carbon future.



## BY 2025

### New Zealand businesses are:

- Influencing climate action in the value chains of signatories.
- Creating momentum, so other businesses must act on climate change.
- Maintaining pressure on Governments of all stripes to adopt policies and make investments that enable the transition to a zero carbon economy.

## CEO LEADERSHIP

CEO-led commitment to climate action in business.

## COLLECTIVE TRANSPARENCY

Annual reporting on emissions, actions and risks.

## CLIMATE ACTION

Delivering on the 2017 and 2019 Statements.

## DEMONSTRATE ACTION

Annual Snapshot reporting collective emissions and climate action including adaptation and influence. Hold one another to account.

## COLLABORATION & VALUE CHAIN

Onboarding, mentoring, media and communications, showcasing best practice, collaborations. Leveraging value chain.

## SBC RELATIONSHIP

Platform for government advocacy, thought leadership, partnerships, communications, sector and issue-specific workstreams.

# The purpose of the CLC

To build irreversible momentum in New Zealand towards a zero carbon<sup>1</sup> future through business leadership, the CLC signatories, led by their CEOs:



**Commit their businesses** to the 2017 Statement and intend to move towards the 2019 Statement.

**Collaborate** and hold one another to account through annual reporting, CEO-to-CEO conversations, and exiting from the CLC those businesses that don't meet their Statement commitments.

**Celebrate progress** and demonstrate what can be achieved by businesses to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

**Collectively have a voice** and influence.

## What success looks like

### **The CLC will be successful when:**

- Signatories are upholding their commitments under the 2017 Statement and the 2019 Statement.
- Signatories report significant emissions reductions in line with their published targets by 2025.

### **The CLC will also achieve success through systems influence:**

- New Zealand is on the path to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Zero Carbon Act.
- Reporting on climate action and risks by business is commonplace by 2025.
- Government leadership, investment and regulation have superseded the requirements of CLC's 2019 Statement.
- More businesses, of all sizes, begin to take appropriate action on climate change.
- New Zealand businesses are adapting to the impacts of climate change.

At the core of the CLC is CEO-led business leadership on climate action. As such, the CLC believes it is most important to have signatories that demonstrate meaningful action on climate change. We anticipate our signatories will always be those businesses at the forefront of climate action, challenging others to go further and faster.



<sup>1</sup>We use the term 'zero carbon' as it is used in the Zero Carbon Act to mean all domestic greenhouse gas emissions including biogenic methane.

# CLC Statements

To be a signatory of the CLC, signatories must commit to ambitious climate action and sign up to one or more Statements. The first Statement was set in 2017 and a second more ambitious one set in 2019 with potential for more in the future. These Statements are the foundations of the CLC. The CLC's commitments are:

- Owned by Chief Executives.
- Designed for front runners (particularly the 2019 Statement).
- Require annual public reporting and disclosure.
- Used to generate a collective report on climate action, which is leveraged in pursuit of the CLC's mission.

From February 2022, New Zealand's regulatory regime advances as carbon budgets are put into effect. A new Statement could be devised, which outlines what climate action and leadership looks like in this new context. This would also include a focus on adaptation.

## Making it happen

An annual work-plan sits underneath this strategy. SBC will be responsible for delivering this work plan, under the guidance of the CLC steering group, and giving the CLC's activities structure and drive.

The work-plan delivers on the mission and purpose of the CLC, and therefore includes:

- Onboarding signatories and providing them a mentor organisation from the coalition;
- Moving signatories to the 2019 Statement;
- Collecting signatory data, and reporting it publicly on an annual basis;
- Providing support and sharing best practice on climate action and adaptation, including resource kits;
- A media/communications approach that demonstrates the action of signatories and positively influences businesses, the government and consumers; and
- Working through SBC on adaptation, sector-level collaboration, research and development, government engagement and partnering with like-minded organisations.

SBC and the CLC can share the delivery of some services, where it makes sense, including administration, communications, events, thought leadership, advocacy and partnerships.

## Our work on adaptation

**The 2019 Statement requires a commitment to: Assess our climate change risks and publicly disclose them.**

The CLC will also focus on adaptation by: moving signatories to the 2019 Statement; asking signatories about their adaptation plans/actions in the annual survey; working through SBC on relevant adaptation projects; including adaptation in CLC communications and case studies; and including adaptation in any future Statement.

# CLC Signatories



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