



CLIMATE LEADERS COALITION
ON A MISSION TO REDUCE EMISSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND



Strategy 2025 – 2030

2025 Statement of Ambition

www.climateleaderscoalition.org.nz

A word from our Convenor

As the Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC) enters a new chapter, we do so with an unwavering resolve to deliver on our commitments to help secure a low-emissions, climate-resilient 2050.

Since its inception, CLC has been a beacon of business-led climate action. Our signatories have helped shift climate action from the periphery of business to the core of organisational strategies. We have advocated for ambitious climate policy. We have championed emissions reduction transparency.

Today our signatories represent around 30% of New Zealand's GDP, employ around 9% of NZ's full-time employees, and have a collective turnover of \$123 billion¹.

Amid an increasingly complex economic and geopolitical environment, the world is transitioning at pace to a new, renewable-energy powered economy. Businesses are recognising that the pace at which the world is exceeding thresholds means that adaptation will be a critical component of climate action. While not without its challenges, these shifts presents immense opportunities for Aotearoa New Zealand, from economic growth and export potential to new careers and a more liveable environment. But to realise these benefits, we must lean into the transition with intent.

Against this backdrop, we recognise to maintain our leadership, our strategy must evolve. Our role is now one that not only demands ambition, but increased accountability, greater collaboration and perhaps most importantly, the stamina to stay the course.

And so we present this refreshed Strategy and Statement of Ambition which sets out the next step in our journey, one that places greater emphasis on CEO-to-CEO collaboration to address shared climate challenges and unlock collective impact.

It retains the Coalition's focus on working alongside Government to advocate for stable policy and practical solutions that enable both transition and adaptation. While CLC remains an international leader in collective business climate action, we know this is not a task we can do alone.

It also sends a clear signal: we are committed to maintaining momentum towards a low-emissions, climate resilient future, contributing to Aotearoa New Zealand's 2050 target.

We are doing so together, as a Coalition of CEOs and businesses who understand both the risks of inaction and the opportunities of transition and adaptation. Our participation signals a commitment to lead from the top, engaging boards, empowering teams, building capability and advocating for enduring policy settings which enable lasting change.

Importantly, this refreshed approach recognises the diversity of our sectors and the complexity of the journey ahead. It reflects the evolution of climate reporting, now mandatory for some signatories, and reinforces our expectation of continued transparency for all.

The Strategy is inclusive of hard-to-abate industries, recognising they represent both our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity to decarbonise the economy, while maintaining high expectations for progress, transparency and innovation. The new Statement also anchors the Coalition to New Zealand's legislated 2050 target and explicitly incorporates transition and adaptation alongside mitigation.

We have come a long way since the Coalition was founded, but some of our most important work lies ahead.

I am extremely proud to be leading the Coalition into this next chapter and thank our CEOs and their teams for their continued commitment. Together we are leading with integrity, ambition, and a shared purpose.

A special thank you to our CEO Steering Group whose insights have been instrumental in shaping this new phase: Jolie Hodson (Spark), Lindis Jones (Z Energy), Amanda Whiting (IAG), Barbara Nebel (thinkstep-anz), David Walsh (NZ Post), Gareth Marriott (OCS Group NZ Limited), Peter Reidy (Kiwirail), and Mike Burrell (Sustainable Business Council).

To those considering joining us – now is the time. The Coalition's strength lies in its unified voice, and in the leadership of those who are willing to act.

Ngā mihi nui,




Malcolm Johns

Convenor, Climate Leaders
Coalition & Genesis CEO

Climate Leaders Coalition Strategy 2025 – 2030

CLC/SBC SHARED VISION

An Aotearoa 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 enduring momentum towards a low-emissions, climate-resilient future, contributing to New Zealand's 2050 net-zero target²

IMPACT

New Zealand businesses are able to seize the opportunities of a low-emissions, climate-resilient future



Mutually reinforcing



Stable and effective policy settings that encourage businesses to invest and take action



CEO LEADERSHIP

CEO-led commitment to climate action in business

TRANSPARENCY

Signatory transparency on emissions, transition, adaptation, actions, risks and opportunities

CLIMATE ACTION

Delivering on the CLC Statement of Ambition

DEMONSTRATE ACTION

Demonstrate action and accountability in our own businesses

COLLABORATION

CEO-led collaboration between signatories to go further together – leveraging shared insights, joint initiatives, and cross-sector partnerships to accelerate progress

ADVOCACY

Use our collective voice to advocate for enduring policy that delivers the transition to a low-emissions, climate-resilient economy

2025 Statement of Ambition

As signatories to the Climate Leaders Coalition, we are committed to working together to build enduring momentum towards a low-emissions, climate-resilient future, contributing to Aotearoa New Zealand's net zero 2050 target³. The below sets out the refreshed Statement of Ambition for the Climate Leaders Coalition, establishing the commitments made by signatories.

Signatory Commitments:

As CEOs, we acknowledge:

- the impacts of climate change on the enduring viability of our businesses;
- the benefits of investing in climate action and the cost of inaction;
- the imperative for decarbonisation in line with scientific realities; and
- the need for businesses, communities, local and central government to work together to support this transition and adaptation.

To drive momentum, we commit to the following individual actions:

- Continue to build our own climate knowledge and capability;
- Actively support our management and teams to deliver climate action across our businesses;
- Actively engage with board members on climate governance;
- Actively work with other CLC Signatory and non-signatory CEOs to co-create and champion collaboration initiatives that aim to help address climate challenges⁴; and
- Advocate, both publicly and via direct engagement with Government Ministers and other political leaders, for policies and initiatives that support CLC's vision for a low-emissions, climate-resilient future.

Actions on behalf of our business:

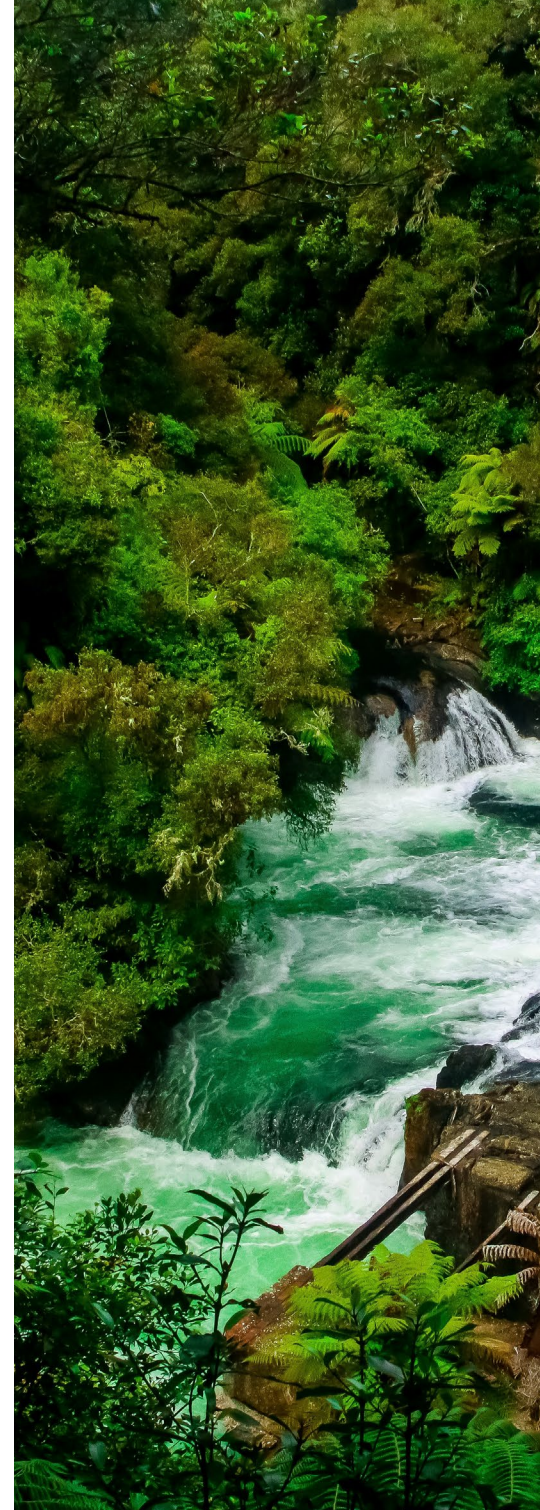
Implementation and Reporting

- Embed climate considerations such as nature, inclusive transition, adaptation, and te ao Māori perspectives into business strategy;
- Publicly report backward-looking progress on emissions and climate action, and prepare forward-looking transition plans, climate action plans or similar;

- Influence and encourage our value chains to reduce their emissions, manage climate change risk and leverage the opportunities of the transition;
- Collaborate with stakeholders and others in our sectors⁵ to identify and work to address our most material climate issues;
- Agree relevant outputs of the CLC collaborations will be shared with the wider business community to help lift ambition or drive action across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Contribution to transition

- Commit to supporting Aotearoa New Zealand to achieve its 2050 net zero target⁶ and emissions budgets, as set out in the Climate Change Response Act 2002;
- Adopt targets or goals which include either:
 - credible near-term (2-10 years) emissions reduction targets for scopes 1, 2 and, where viable scope 3⁷; and/or
 - other measurable climate-related goals or targets, that demonstrate a contribution to New Zealand's 2050 target.



Evolution of the Statement of Ambition

This document contains the CLC Strategy (2025 – 2030) which sets the vision for CLC, and the latest iteration of the Statement of Ambition, which provides information about the ambition and commitments required of CLC signatories.

The first Statement was set in 2017, and subsequent versions set in 2019 and 2022.

These Statements are the foundations of the CLC. The commitments in them:

- Are owned by Chief Executives;
- Are designed for climate leaders;
- Require annual public reporting and disclosure; and
- Are used to generate a collective report on climate action, which is leveraged in pursuit of the CLC's mission.

We recognise signatory climate action has evolved from simply reducing our own emissions (mitigation), to adapting to remain resilient in a changed climate, and advocating for policy outcomes that support an enduring transition to a low emission, climate resilient economy.

2025 marks the launch of the refreshed 2025 Statement, replacing the previous versions. The 2022 Statement expired in September 2025, with CLC signatories transitioning to the new Statement following its release in November of that year.

A number of substantive changes in context have taken place over the years that CLC has existed. Namely, the Climate Change Response Act was amended by Zero Carbon Bill to establish Aotearoa New Zealand's net zero target, the Climate Change Commission, emissions budgets and a requirement for emissions reduction plans – often collectively referred to as the climate 'policy architecture'. Many CLC signatories have emissions reduction targets and are producing climate reporting; progress has been made across the economy on mitigation; and there have been major structural changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which have increased the carbon price signal in the economy.

Key challenges remain and are the focus for CLC moving forward - how to tackle the remaining 'big rocks' that are hard to abate (collaboration, advocacy), how to ensure the momentum built endures (advocacy), how to forge a path and demonstrate the art of the possible (demonstrating action through transparency).

[Supporting Information](#) for the 2025 Statement of Ambition sets out the operational detail for adopting the commitments.

Statement of Ambition – reporting

The 2025 Statement of Ambition evolves the CLC’s expectations for climate leadership grounded in transparency, accountability, and climate action. It outlines what is expected of signatories, both as individual CEOs and through the businesses they lead.

New Zealand has seen a significant uplift in public disclosure and reporting. CLC will continue to report aggregated insights on the activities of the Coalition. CLC expects signatories to transparently report climate information, including progress against climate-related targets and goals. To avoid a duplication of effort, CLC will rely on public disclosures to gather information regarding signatories.

CLC acknowledges that signatories may need to adjust actions and commitments as they transition. Each signatory undertakes to inform CLC as soon as practicable after they become aware of any change in circumstance that will materially impact its ability to meet the commitments under the Statement of Ambition.

Signatories who are unable to adopt commitments within 18 months of the commencement of the Statement of Ambition, or 18 months after joining, or who subsequently consider that they cannot deliver on the commitments, are expected to remove themselves from the Coalition.

While designed to accommodate sector-specific realities, the signatory expectations have a firm baseline: climate-related targets, public disclosure, active engagement, and influence across the value chain. In doing so, the Coalition continues to demonstrate both commitment and impact, ensuring our actions are backed by real results.



Impact

The Climate Leaders Coalition seeks to have impact, driving the actions required to adapt to climate change and progress the transition towards a low-emissions, climate resilient economy. This strategy sets out the impact the Climate Leaders Coalition is seeking to have.

IMPACT GOALS



#1: New Zealand businesses are able to seize the opportunities of a low-emissions, climate-resilient future

What this looks like:

- Climate action is embedded across relevant business activities;
- Climate action supports an inclusive transition that fosters social, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability for both signatory businesses and Aotearoa New Zealand.



#2: Stable and effective policy from government settings that encourage businesses to take climate action

What this looks like:

- CLC influences cross-party support from government for key climate-related policies;
- Businesses, local and central government collaborate on climate change mitigation and adaptation, tackling complexities in unison.



Making it happen

An annual work-plan will support the delivery of this strategy. The work-plan will be developed to deliver on the mission and purpose of the CLC, and to support signatories to meet the Statement of Ambition.

Under the guidance of the CLC Steering Group, the Sustainable Business Council (SBC) will be responsible for delivering this work plan. The SBC provides the secretariat for the CLC.

While the focus remains on CLC signatories and actions such as facilitating CEO to CEO collaboration, where feasible, CLC will also look outward to collaborate with iwi, government, academia, and society to contribute towards inclusive, whole-of-system climate solutions.

A word of thanks

We would like to acknowledge the CLC team of SBC particularly Antonia Burbidge, Jay Crangle, Rebecca Lowe and Shannil Varma, as well as CLC signatory CEOs and their sustainability teams, whose input has been instrumental in the development of CLC's refreshed Strategy and Statement of Ambition. A special thanks also to KPMG New Zealand who facilitated the development of this Strategy and Statement of Ambition, and to Chapman Tripp for providing independent legal advice to the CLC.

References

¹ Climate Leaders Coalition 2024 Snapshot Report

^{2,3,6} New Zealand's 2050 target is set out in the Climate Change Response Act (2002) and may be subject to amendment from time to time. At the time of publication, this states that:

"The target for emissions reduction (the 2050 target) requires that:

- (a) net accounting emissions of greenhouse gases in a calendar year, other than biogenic methane, are zero by the calendar year beginning on 1 January 2050 and for each subsequent calendar year; and
- (b) emissions of biogenic methane in a calendar year
 - (i) are 10% less than 2017 emissions by the calendar year beginning on 1 January 2030; and
 - (ii) are 24% to 47% less than 2017 emissions by the calendar year beginning on 1 January 2050 and for each subsequent calendar year.

^{4,5} Signatories may be actual or potential competitors to supply or acquire goods or services; the signatories intend that all activities pursuant to the Statement (including in particular commitments, guidance, information sharing and collaboration) will occur in compliance with the signatories' obligations under the Commerce Act 1986; and the signatories will put in place appropriate processes and protections to support compliance in relation to their activities pursuant to the Statement.

⁷ "Credible" with respect to emissions reduction targets means aligned with best available science and/or validated by a recognised and respected third party body. For example, this includes scope 3 supplier engagement targets approved by the Science-based Targets initiative.

Our signatories



Signatories as at July 2025



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