



18-M-00784

Dear Mr Fairbank

Thank you for your emails regarding sustainability and ecological footprints. You raise interesting questions around sustainability and living within the planet's natural resources.

The Living Standards Framework led by the New Zealand Treasury includes natural capital as one of the indicators to measure sustainable intergenerational wellbeing. Natural capital includes land, soil, water, biodiversity, minerals, energy resources, and ecosystem services. In addition to this, we have a strong evidence base of environmental reporting published by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand. These reports provide an overall picture of New Zealand's environment across the air, atmosphere and climate, fresh water, land, and marine domains including interactions between domains. Your points regarding how we incorporate these indicators into decision-making are illustrative of the issues we are working through.

As Minister for Climate Change, I am dedicated to delivering on our commitments to be a world leader on climate change – setting New Zealand on a pathway to a low emission, climate-resilient future. Last December, I signalled my intention to introduce a Zero Carbon Bill (the Bill) in 2018. This will see New Zealand put a bold new emissions reduction target into law and establish an independent Climate Change Commission.

In mid-2018, we will have a conversation with all New Zealanders about how we transition to a sustainable and climate resilient future. Consultation will open in June, and you can register your interest to be notified of any major timeline updates or events: [www.mfe.govt.nz/have-your-say-zero-carbon](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/have-your-say-zero-carbon).

The Bill will set the framework for New Zealand's transition to a low emissions, climate resilient future, and contain interim targets to ensure future governments remain on track to achieving the overarching 2050 target.

I acknowledge that we need to take action now to reduce our emissions and the impacts of climate change. The Ministry for the Environment has provided information for individuals and organisations on individual actions they can take [www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/we-all-have-role-play/what-you-can-do](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/we-all-have-role-play/what-you-can-do). This includes a link to Global Footprint Network's Footprint Calculator which allows individuals to simply input details of their lifestyle and get an indicative sense of where their emissions come from and what actions they can take to reduce them.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts on this important matter and providing valuable information. I encourage you to participate in the upcoming consultation process on the Zero Carbon Bill.

Yours sincerely,

  
Hon James Shaw

**Minister for Climate Change**