

Hon James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change
Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity)



2 November 2021

M22-2021

Robert Hunt
Chair, New Zealand Buddhist Council
By email: chair@buddhistcouncil.org.nz

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2021 to Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern and myself. And thank you for the attached message of encouragement and support to the delegation, which I have shared with them. It is much appreciated.

I agree with you that it is time for wise and decisive measures. Our view is that COP26 is an important milestone for avoiding the inevitable consequences if global emission reductions are insufficient to keep the temperature goal of 1.5°C within reach.

Our focus is on enhancing global ambition to prevent the worst of the climate crisis. We are fully committed to the Paris Agreement, and intent on keeping the limit of 1.5°C warming within reach. That is why we put that temperature goal at the heart of our domestic climate change legislation.

You will have seen that over the weekend I announced an upgraded Nationally Determined Contribution - New Zealand's contribution to the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Our Pacific Island neighbours are experiencing first-hand the devastating effects of climate change, despite having contributed least to the problem. That is why a key priority for Aotearoa New Zealand at COP26 is to amplify the voices and priorities of our region, by advocating for outcomes that support the interests of Pacific Island countries.

New Zealand understands the urgency of developing countries' climate finance needs, and the importance that developing countries place on the provision of climate finance in order to contribute to our collective global efforts to address climate change.

That is why New Zealand has strongly stepped up in its climate finance ambition. We have increased our climate finance commitment to NZ\$1.3 billion in grant funding over the next four years (2022-2025). This is more than four times the size of our 2018 commitment of NZ\$300m. Of this climate finance commitment, at least half is to specifically support Pacific Island countries, and at least half is to be focused on adaptation.

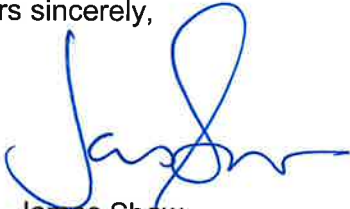
New Zealand is taking a leadership position internationally by being the first country in the world to price agricultural emissions (from 2025 at the latest). We are working with the primary sector and Māori – through our He Waka Eke Noa partnership – to establish the best way to do so.

New Zealand also champions research and development to reduce agricultural emissions. This includes through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases of which New Zealand is a founding member.

New Zealand will bring experience and expertise to COP26 in key areas of benefit to global ambition, including bringing an end to fossil fuel and other environmentally harmful subsidies; growing more food without growing emissions, using trade levers to contribute to ambitious climate action, and scaling up 'green' finance and scaling down emissions intensive finance.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write. We take your encouragement with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shaw', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Hon. James Shaw

Minister of Climate Change