

# Sustainability Matters

8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

A fortnightly selection of topical **news and views** about economic, social and environmental issues.  
Designed especially for accountants and those who use the services of accountants.

## Sustainability Matters is;

- Compiled and published by Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*, providers of specialist services relating to sustainability and business support. **Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children.**

## A Stunning Victory at Exxon Mobil

"We did it!

"Investors just claimed a milestone win at ExxonMobil's annual meeting with a majority vote of 62% in favour of the fossil fuel giant analysing and disclosing the risks it faces due to climate change.

"This vote, coupled with similar victories this year at Occidental Petroleum and PPL Corporation, represents a historic shift in investor support for climate risk disclosure. It's clear that investors have awoken to the reality that climate change is a material concern for energy companies, and they're demanding the transparency and analysis needed to safeguard their assets.

"For Ceres, this success is decades in the making. We were founded in the wake of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill by investors concerned about the negative impact that companies can have on our environment – and their own bottom lines – when corners are cut on sustainability. At the start, people thought we were naive or misguided for thinking we could persuade mainstream investors to act on climate. Today, many of the very largest investors in the world are challenging companies on climate change and sending a clear message that business as usual is no longer an option.

"This vote comes at a particularly important time. President Trump reportedly is poised to announce a decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement at any moment, despite the fact that more than 1,100 businesses and 280 global investors (and even some of the President's own team, including Secretary of State and former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson) have encouraged him to keep the U.S. in Paris. ....

**More:** [www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/exxonmobil-investors-make-history-majority-vote-climate-risk-disclosure](http://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/exxonmobil-investors-make-history-majority-vote-climate-risk-disclosure) plus [www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/2017/05/31/exxon-shareholders-face-key-climate-vote-annual-meeting-today-dallas](http://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/2017/05/31/exxon-shareholders-face-key-climate-vote-annual-meeting-today-dallas)

**Source:** Ceres, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. ❖

## What Next?

"In early June I [Wendy McGuinness] am excited to be appearing as a panelist on a live show called *What Next?* Nigel Latta and John Campbell are teaming up to present a five-part, LIVE and interactive series that explores what New Zealand could look like in 2037. *What Next?* invites the public to vote on four initial questions. Each question relates to a specific episode and aims to reflect what the wider community value and think about certain issues. More questions will be rolled out during the live episodes, and results will be shown and discussed throughout the series.

"Please take a moment to check out the website and vote. Nigel Latta and John Campbell are joined by five futurists: Derek Handley, Shay Wright, Sacha McMeeking, Frances Valentine and myself. They also have Shaun Hendy from the University of Auckland as the After Show Guest. This is an important and timely discussion.

**More:** [www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/what-next](http://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/what-next) plus [www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/what-next/futurists](http://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/what-next/futurists)

**Source:** McGuinness Institute Annual Newsletter, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## SUSTAINABILITY GROUP EVENTS

Next event – Date of webcast yet to be 'sorted'.



Announcements in 'due course'. ❖

## End of Childhood?

"Childhood should be a time for innocent questions, playing ball, bedtime stories and more. But shockingly, 700 million children around the world are being robbed of childhood because of who they are or where they live – a girl, a child labourer, a street child. That's one in every four children.

"Today [1<sup>st</sup> June 2017], to commemorate International Children's Day, we're launching a new *End of Childhood Report* that takes a hard look at life events that force children around the world to grow up before their time or not at all. We call them 'childhood enders' – tragic realities like these faced by far too many children.

".....nearly one in four children are being robbed of their childhoods, simply because of who they are or where they live.

"Extreme violence, conflict, forced displacement, child labour and child marriage are just some of the threats to childhood expectancy – the time that a child has to experience childhood – and perpetuate a vicious cycle of poverty.

"In our new *End of Childhood Report* and Index, we examine:

- Eight life events that signal the end of childhood
- The harsh realities faced by the most vulnerable, excluded children – including girls, refugees, street children, and children with disabilities

"By examining what ends childhood around the world, we can ensure every last child has a complete childhood and reaches their full potential.

"8 Childhood Enders

- Child dies: Every day, more than 16,000 children die before reaching their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, mostly from preventable or treatable causes
- Child is malnourished: 156 million children under age 5 have stunted growth due to malnutrition – almost 1 in 4 kids
- Child is out of school: 263 million children are out of school – that's more than 1 in 6 school-aged children worldwide
- Child labour: 168 million children worldwide are involved in child labour – that's more than all the children in Europe
- Child brides: Globally, one girl under 15 gets married every seven seconds
- Child has a child: Every two seconds, a girl gives birth
- Child is a victim of extreme violence: Every day, more than 200 boys and girls around the world are murdered
- Child is displaced by conflict: Conflict has forced nearly 1 child in 80 from their homes, and some even onto the front lines.

**More:** <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/end-of-childhood>, 42 pages, 7.862Mb

**Source:** Save The Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

**Editor:** NZ ranks 28<sup>th</sup> of 172 (pages 29, 32). Out of 37 countries classified as 'few children missing out on childhood'. Australia is ranked 18<sup>th</sup>. ❖

## Climate Case: The Student vs the Minister

In a case thought to be the first of its kind, Sarah Thomson has taken Climate Change Minister Paula Bennett to court over what the 26-year-old claims is a lack of action over climate change.

**More:**

[www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11862450](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11862450)

**Source:** NZ Herald, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## PCE Report on Birds – 5 Things You Need to Know

Jan Wright has released her penultimate report as Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment; this one is about ensuring our native birds can thrive on mainland New Zealand. Here are five things you need to know about the report;

### 1. Our Native Birds are in Trouble

You see a lot of good news stories in the media, but actually the picture is pretty bleak for our native species. Commissioner Wright has tried to simplify the threat classifications so that people can understand what is going on:

- Around one in five of our native bird species are doing okay;
- Half of them are in some trouble; and
- One third are in serious trouble.

### 2. They face very different issues

At a high level the major threats are predators, habitat loss, and lack of genetic diversity. But when you dig down into the issues like habitat, it becomes clear that these birds face very different problems.

New Zealand has a lot of species that live nowhere else. Commissioner Wright points out that we tend to think most about forest birds that live in our national parks, like the kakapo and kiwi. However, we also have many rare seabirds that are threatened by predators and fishing. There are also many species living on private land, particularly those on riverbeds and near the coasts. Saving all these species will require action from all of us, we can't leave it just to the Department of Conservation.

### 3. There is no plan for Predator Free

The Government has invested some start-up money in the Predator Free 2050 vision, but Commissioner Wright points out we have no plan of how to get there as yet. The money the Government has invested is really to explore different options of what a plan could include to see which are the most viable. Commissioner Wright is arguing we should have a plan to work to now, even if it needs to change to respond to new technology.

### 4. In the meantime, we are still losing birds

What good is it getting to a predator free country eventually if we could lose more species in the mean time? Commissioner Wright is pointing out that for the third of species which are seriously in trouble we need action now. The analogy she uses is the Government is building a hospital (Predator Free 2050), but it is no good if the patient dies in the meantime.

The fact is it is far more expensive if we wait until a species is in really deep trouble before we take action. Look at the black robin, kakapo and takahe for example. They are so rare that they need incredibly intensive and expensive intervention like hand rearing and IVF to save them. We need to prevent the one third of species that are in serious trouble getting to that stage because it will be impossible to save them all.

### 5. Saving our native species will cost \$

The Government is consulting on a threatened species strategy, but as yet there is no money to implement it. Remember one third of our species are in serious trouble, so saving them is likely to cost money. The only way to do that within current budgets would be to let takahe, kiwi and kakapo die out so that we can reinvest that money to save the rest – that is unlikely to fly.

The Budget invested in DOC infrastructure, but failed to invest in saving the species all those visitors come here to see. That is why The Opportunities Party (TOP) is proposing a tourist levy of \$20 to cover the cost of the extra conservation activity required. It seems that most political parties now back a tourist tax – with Labour, Greens, and United Future coming out in favour of one. Now Commissioner Wright has added her weight to the idea, pointing out that it is commonplace overseas. When will the Government catch on?

**More:** [www.pce.parliament.nz/our-work/news-insights/native-birds-in-desperate-situation-says-environment-commissioner](http://www.pce.parliament.nz/our-work/news-insights/native-birds-in-desperate-situation-says-environment-commissioner) 130 pages, 2.676Mb, plus [www.top.org.nz/pce\\_report\\_on\\_birds\\_5\\_things\\_you\\_need\\_to\\_know](http://www.top.org.nz/pce_report_on_birds_5_things_you_need_to_know) and [www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/tourist-tax-halt-decline-our-native-birds-doesnt-make-sense-visitors-havent-caused-problem](http://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/tourist-tax-halt-decline-our-native-birds-doesnt-make-sense-visitors-havent-caused-problem)

**Source:** TV1 News, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Why Don't Green Buildings Live Up to Hype on Energy Efficiency?

..... explores why green buildings often do not deliver the energy efficiency that architects and engineers claimed they would. Analysts call it the 'energy performance gap' – the difference between the promised and actual savings in green buildings.

**More:** <http://e360.yale.edu/features/why-dont-green-buildings-live-up-to-hype-on-energy-efficiency>

**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Entries Open for NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards 2017

Entries are now open for New Zealand's longest-running and pre-eminent sustainability awards.

The Awards are now in their 15<sup>th</sup> year. They recognise businesses, local government, social enterprises and individuals for success in sustainability.

Entry to the awards is free. It is open to all organisations and individuals in New Zealand.

Rachel Brown CEO of the Sustainable Business Network says, *'Given the rather grim global climate, sharing stories of positive action addressing social and environmental issues is more important than ever. Entering these Awards is a quick and easy way to celebrate your achievements.'* .....

The supreme award is the NZI Greatest Contribution to a Sustainable New Zealand. This will be awarded to a business for outstanding performance in all aspects of sustainability. Air New Zealand was last year's Supreme Winner. The 2015 Supreme Winner was Taupō Beef. ....

Entries close on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

The award categories – which differ from prior years – are:

- Sustainability Superstar
- Communicating for Change
- Hardwired for Social Good
- Partnering for Good
- Going Circular
- Efficiency Champion
- Smarter Transport
- Revolutionising Energy
- Transforming Food
- Restoring Nature

**More:** [sustainable.org.nz/awards](http://sustainable.org.nz/awards)

**Source:** SBN, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. ❖

## Interview with Winnie Byanyima, Oxfam International Executive Director

Winnie Byanyima travels to the frontlines of the fight against poverty, which takes her to extremes. The last few months have seen her in famine-affected areas in South Sudan, and in meetings with the world's most powerful and wealthy at places like the World Economic Forum.

For the very first time, Winnie is in New Zealand. She has travelled with a personal message to the people of Aotearoa about inequality and poverty and the huge potential role New Zealand could play on the world stage.

Before Oxfam International, Winnie was elected three times to the Ugandan Parliament, serving 11 years, and led the country's first parliamentary women's caucus. ....

Winnie holds a M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering in Energy Conservation and the Environment (University of Cranfield), and a B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering (University of Manchester). She began a five-year term leading Oxfam International on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

**When Where:** 7:00pm Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, Q Theatre, 305 Queen St, Auckland

**More:** [www.qtheatre.co.nz/interview-winnie-byanyima-oxfam-international-executive-director](http://www.qtheatre.co.nz/interview-winnie-byanyima-oxfam-international-executive-director) plus [www.oxfam.org/en/winnie-byanyima-biography](http://www.oxfam.org/en/winnie-byanyima-biography)

**Source:** Oxfam, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Why Business & Finance Must Understand their Impacts & Dependencies on Nature

"Finance permeates the global economy, driving growth, development and prosperity. However, financial institutions (FIs), can also accelerate environmental damage, climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

"This degradation occurs when FIs, (either directly or indirectly), favour ostensibly profitable, but demonstrably damaging and unsustainable industries and practices.

"The power of the financial sector to shape and position the global economy however, can also catalyse and drive a shift towards a global market where organisations truly understand their relationships with nature and natural systems, leading to better outcomes for all.

"Global financial markets are tools, and as with all tools, they are not innately good or bad, what matters is how they is used, and what goals they aim to achieve.

"Organisations and the Natural World;

"We describe the relationships organisations have with the natural world in terms of 'impact and dependency pathways'. This sounds complex and enigmatic, but it is actually very simple.

"The fundamental question for businesses to ask themselves here is; how dependent is my business model on nature? And how are my actions impacting on nature's ability to provide what I am dependent on.

"This simple exercise can be a watershed moment for management teams, who often realise that their success is connected to a number of dependency pathways that they had never considered before.

"Waking Up;

"As divestment from fossil fuels grows to \$5 trillion, and insurance companies pay out \$23.8 billion for damage from natural events in the U.S. alone in 2016, FIs such as banks, investors and insurers, are increasingly aware of the importance of understanding and effectively managing natural capital considerations in their practices and portfolios.

"In 2015, the United Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England, warned that FIs could suffer a 'huge hit' if their investments in fossil fuels are rendered worthless by action on climate change.

"The previous year, Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, and Chairman of the G20's Financial Stability Board, told a World Bank seminar on integrated reporting that the 'vast majority of [fossil fuel] reserves are unburnable' if climate change is to be limited to 2C, 25% above the limit agreed in the Paris Agreement last year.....

"Today [16<sup>th</sup> May], we **launch the draft Finance Sector Supplement for public consultation** at The Rockefeller Foundation in New York. The process of development is collaborative, and we encourage participation from all parts of society, although we are clear that this must be led by the finance sector if it is to be robust and fit for purpose.

"**The consultation will run for four months**, ending on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, and will consist of webinars, a piloting program, workshops in several major geographies, and an open public consultation on the online platform *Collaborase*, where the draft Supplement will be made available for public comment.

"When the draft Natural Capital Protocol was released for consultation, over 3,500 comments were submitted from many hundreds of individuals and organisations, showing that there is a very clear interest in these issues, and a strong community uniting to address challenges.

"The Protocol has been downloaded just under 5,500 times from the Coalition website alone since its release last July, and many more times from other sources. As momentum continues to build around natural capital and its role in the global economy, we're confident that in the coming years all major organisations will include natural capital impact and dependency information in their core strategy and decision making.

**More:** <http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/why-business-finance-must-understand-their-impacts-dependencies-on-nature/>

**Source:** Natural Capital Coalition, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Decision of USA's Leadership to 'Go It Alone'

As might be expected there's a huge amount of dialogue and discussion about the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 announcement on the lawns of the Whitehouse seemingly to a very receptive audience. No doubt there will be much more. Here's a sample;

- <https://popularresistance.org/newsletter-understanding-trumps-climate-withdrawal-our-responsibility/> [Perhaps the most insightful]
- [www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/climate/trump-paris-climate-agreement.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/climate/trump-paris-climate-agreement.html) with 28min video
- [www.azaniapost.com/politics/donald-trump-confirms-us-will-quit-paris-climate-agreement-h4173.html](http://www.azaniapost.com/politics/donald-trump-confirms-us-will-quit-paris-climate-agreement-h4173.html)
- [www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/01/donald-trump-paris-climate-deal-pullout-us-impact](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/01/donald-trump-paris-climate-deal-pullout-us-impact)
- <https://theconversation.com/will-the-paris-agreement-still-be-able-to-deliver-after-the-us-withdrawal-78727>
- [www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-stay-leave-or-scale-back-trump-plans-1496330217-htmlstory.html](http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-stay-leave-or-scale-back-trump-plans-1496330217-htmlstory.html)
- [www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40127326](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40127326) with a 6:18 video featuring Paris negotiator John Kerry
- [www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/trump-america-will-pull-out-of-paris-climate-agreement-w485315](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/trump-america-will-pull-out-of-paris-climate-agreement-w485315)
- [www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/93216195/the-paris-agreement-is-new-zealand-as-committed-without-the-us](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/93216195/the-paris-agreement-is-new-zealand-as-committed-without-the-us)
- [www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/withdrawing-us-paris-climate-agreement-puts-america-last](http://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/withdrawing-us-paris-climate-agreement-puts-america-last)
- [www.environmentalleader.com/2017/06/top-ceos-quit-trump-biz-council-following-paris-agreement-abandonment/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/2017/06/top-ceos-quit-trump-biz-council-following-paris-agreement-abandonment/)
- <http://ens-newswire.com/2017/05/24/trumps-2018-budget-would-devastate-environment/>
- <http://www.politicususa.com/2017/06/02/trump-scared-pittsburgh-holding-pittsburgh-paris-rally-d-c.html>

**Source:** Various! ❖

## Tiny Electric Motorbike with 40 Mile Range

"The Motochimp – based in Singapore – is a tiny, foldable, retro electric motorbike that will fit in the trunk of a car, and get something like 40 miles of range. It only does 20 miles per hour, but it seems to me like it's made for city riding anyway.

"It's apparently going into production this year, and will be released in the UK (and some internet rumours say the US too) next year. And Smith says they are talking about a price tag of around GBP1,300 (US\$1,600). (Auto Express says the price will be closer to \$2,000.) I don't see it becoming an e-bike for the masses at those prices, but in trendy urban neighbourhoods I wouldn't be surprised to see these catching on with folks who'd like to avoid the cost of owning a car.

**More:** [www.treehugger.com/bikes/tiny-retro-electric-motorbike-gets-40-miles-range.html](http://www.treehugger.com/bikes/tiny-retro-electric-motorbike-gets-40-miles-range.html) plus <http://motochimp.com/>

**Source:** *ShippETS*, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. ❖

## An Effective NZ ETS: Clear Price Signals to Guide Low-Emission Investment

"Early in 2016 Motu Economic and Public Policy Research gathered together a group of participants from diverse backgrounds and sectors to engage in a deep dialogue on key issues that affect the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) in order to generate new insights and strategic options to improve its effectiveness.

"Backed by a series of four working papers and four meetings in Wellington, dialogue participants came together in March 2017 to discuss an integrated proposal for managing unit supply and prices in the NZ ETS in a way that generates more predictable price signals to guide domestic decarbonisation. This document presents the proposal that emerged from the group's work, namely; ....

**More:** <http://motu.nz/our-work/environment-and-resources/emission-mitigation/emissions-trading/an-effective-nz-ets-clear-price-signals-to-guide-low-emission-investment> 11 pages 1.071Mb

**Source:** Clare Feeny, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. ❖

## The Finance Sector Supplement to the *Natural Capital Protocol Framework*

"With increasing attention on the role of nature in the economy and society, financial institutions need a common framework that provides a clear introduction to natural capital issues, and a structured process to identify, measure and value their direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on natural capital.

"A variety of initiatives and methodologies are being developed to enable financial institutions to better understand the natural capital risks and opportunities associated with their direct operations, and their investment, lending and insurance portfolios.....

"To provide the clear and unified guidance needed, the leading organisations in this space have agreed to build upon the framework of the *Natural Capital Protocol*. This Finance Sector Supplement to the *Natural Capital Protocol* will provide guidance to help financial institutions incorporate the consideration of natural capital impacts and dependencies into their lending, investment and insurance practices and processes.

"The Finance Sector Supplement will focus on three key sub-sectors:

- Banking: Provision of debt through project finance, corporate lending and underwriting activities.
- Investment: Provision of equity by asset owners and fund managers. This may also involve active ownership and impact investing.
- Insurance: This includes corporate underwriting and reinsurance. ....

"The public consultation runs from 16<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**More:** <http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/projects/finance-sector-supplement/> plus <http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/why-business-finance-must-understand-their-impacts-dependencies-on-nature/>

**Source:** Natural Capital Coalition, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Using Natural Capital Accounting to Understand the Trade-Off Between Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Local Air Pollution

"Are diesel or petrol cars better for the environment?"

"The US investigation into emissions from diesel cars has drawn attention to difference between emissions performance during tests and real world driving. Some commentary confuses the issue of discovery of actions to undermine the tests, and the well-known issue of the difference between test and on road emissions. Car makers and governments were aware of the latter and have published research on this since at least 2011.

"The attention has opened up an old question – which is better for the environment, diesel or petrol? And if diesel is not better, why have lower taxation for diesel vehicles? In this blog I show how to use natural capital accounting to understand the problem and create better balanced incentives. ....

"The investigations into difference between test and real world emissions are the cause of the problem. The Dutch transport laboratory, TNO, found that real world NOx emissions for Euro 6 engines were 8 times greater than the standard. UK testing of vehicles found them to be 6 times greater than the Euro 6 test standard.

"What is the solution? Vehicle excise rates in the UK continue use greenhouse gas emissions to determine the excise duty. But this data shows that a combined approach would provide a better basis for changes to vehicle excise duty. Alternatively policy makers might leave the current approach in place but target diesel cars with high levels of pollution through a congestion charging scheme. There are already changes in place to the London congestion charge to address this issue ...

**More:** <http://pwc.blogs.com/sustainability/2017/05/are-diesel-or-petrol-cars-better-for-the-environment.html>

**Source:** Natural Capital Coalition, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Extended External Reporting in New Zealand

The McGuinness Institute's has begun a research project in collaboration with the External Reporting Board (XRB) looking at extended external reporting in New Zealand. One of the two surveys asks about:

*Extended External Reporting User Survey* – this survey is open to the public until the end of June. They would appreciate participation in and sharing of; anyone is welcome to contribute.

**More:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K29H6K9>

**Source:** McGuinness Institute's Annual Newsletter – Issue 18: 2017, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990–2015 – NZ 7<sup>th</sup>-worst on Emissions of 41 Nations

"New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions in 2015 were 24.1% higher than 1990 levels – a far cry from the country's commitment in the Paris agreement.

"Gross greenhouse gas emissions from human activity for the year were 80.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, compared with 64.6 million tonnes in 1990.

"Last year, New Zealand ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and committed to reducing emissions by 11% on 1990 levels by 2030.

"The government has just released its Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the official annual estimate of all human-caused emissions and removals in New Zealand. ...

"Gross emissions include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen oxide and fluorinated gases from agriculture, energy – including transport and electricity production, waste, and industrial processes – and product use such as refrigeration and air conditioning and carbon dioxide emissions from mineral, chemical and metals production.

"It also includes what is referred to as land use, land use change and forestry, which can effectively remove emissions because vegetation acts as a carbon sink. ...

**More:** [www.mfe.govt.nz/node/23304/](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/23304/) 11.66Mb, plus [www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/331646/nz-seventh-worst-on-emissions-of-41-nations](http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/331646/nz-seventh-worst-on-emissions-of-41-nations) and [www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/reporting-greenhouse-gas-emissions/nzs-greenhouse-gas-inventory](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/reporting-greenhouse-gas-emissions/nzs-greenhouse-gas-inventory)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017. ❖

## Are New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Falling?

"Not really is the answer. A new report released last week by MFE reveals that gross emissions have fallen by only 0.1% in 2015 from 2014 emissions. And as the stats from the report show, New Zealand's emissions have in fact soared since 1990. The drop of 0.1% is attributed to the fall in milk prices and to drought rather than to the success of any measures to reduce emissions. Deforestation is contributing to the large increase in our net emissions.

"The MFE report shows:

- New Zealand's gross emissions have increased 24.1% from the [base] year 1990.
- The key drivers of the increase in gross emissions are:
  - \* Carbon dioxide emissions from road transport
  - \* Carbon dioxide emissions from chemical industry and food processing
  - \* Methane emissions from livestock digestive systems
  - \* Nitrous oxide emissions from fertiliser used on agricultural soils
  - \* Fluorinated gases released from industrial and household refrigeration and air-conditioning systems.
  - \* Net emissions have increased by 63.6% since 1990. This is due to the increase in gross emissions and the higher harvesting rates in planted forests in 2015 compared with 1990.

**Source:** *Tieke ECO News*, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. ❖

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Send your news items, handy hints, case studies, suggestions, comments and questions to Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*.  
eMail: [ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](mailto:ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz) Phone: +64 (09) 443 0773 Web: [www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](http://www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz)