

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Zero Carbon Bill Reported Back

The final report of the Environment Committee was reported back to parliament on 21st October

Despite calls for stronger action from climate strikes around New Zealand and many places globally – notably by nations' youth – the Bill's level of ambition is unchanged.

Although there have been a number of changes most are relatively minor.

There is one major change and that is removal of the agricultural sector from the ETS – for the meantime at least. This has engendered both positive and negative response which some commenters say is pragmatic and the reality of politics, especially for a minority government dependent upon partner parties and in the context of looming elections in New Zealand's short three year election cycle – the bane of endeavours for all N.Z. governments over many years.

More:

www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/reports/document/SCR_92789/climate-change-response-zero-carbon-amendment-bill 56 pages, 369Kb, plus Rod Oram; "The flaws in the primary sector's promises" at www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/10/27/877187/flaws-primary-sector-promises and Charlie Mitchell "Free carbon credits worth billions will continue being allocated for decades" at www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/116695150/free-carbon-credits-worth-billions-will-continue-being-allocated-for-decades and more of course.

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events* and Editor. 

A Framework for the National Climate Change Risk Assessment for Aotearoa New Zealand

"This framework [of 16th September 2019] is the first step towards producing a National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA). The framework will enable a broad range of risks to be systematically compared. It was prepared for the Ministry [for the Environment] by a panel of experts in climate change risk and risk assessments, vulnerability assessments and risk in the context of Te Ao Māori.

"The framework provides the means to evaluate risks and opportunities from climate change in terms of their nature, severity and urgency using a wide range of information sources. It includes:

- A three-stage approach to assessing and comparing risks
- Templates to be used in completing the various steps of the assessment
- Guidance materials to assist users in following the methodology.

"The framework will also be useful to local government, iwi/hapū and other organisations in performing their own climate change risk assessments or procuring new evidence on climate risks.

More: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/arotakenga-huringa-%C4%81huarangi-framework-national-climate-change-risk 114 pages, 3.44Mb

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 24th October 2019. 

EDS: Second Working Paper in Phase 2 of Resource Management Reform Project

"The Environment Defence Society (EDS) has published its second working paper [PDF] as part of Phase 2 of its Resource Management Law Reform Project. The project is taking a first-principles look at how New Zealand's resource management system could be improved.

"Phase 1 of the project outlined three potential models for what a future system could look like. Phase 2 is now looking at designing a single preferred model.

"*This working paper describes the core features of what we think an ambitious future system could look like*, said EDS senior researcher Dr Greg Severinsen.

"EDS proposes a 'Future Generations Act' as an over-arching structure of considerations, including climate change, but then a mix of different legislation and policy. Earlier EDS suggestions that the Resource Management System reform could subsume conservation legislation are rejected.

"When ECO heard a presentation on EDS's proposals a few weeks ago, we supported much of it, but have concerns still about proposed reductions in public input into planning processes and specific proposals. **We'd value your views. Send these to eco@eco.org.nz**

"Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker, appointed a group led by retired Court of Appeal judge Tony Randerson, to consider Resource Management System reform. Parker considers that it should focus especially on the Resource Management Act, the Local Government Act and the NZ Land Transport Management Act. That group has been asked to consider the EDS reports. Parker has made it clear he thinks the scope of the EDS proposed reforms is too broad and any completely base-lined review would collapse under its own weight.

"EDS has picked up on the work ECO began in the 1990s when we pressed for an Oceans Policy with an Oceans Act and for which we have advocated since. Our understanding is David Parker wants to get the Resource Management Reforms done before he considers that.

"EDS wants feedback on the working paper. Send your thoughts to RMProject@eds.org.nz – and share your thoughts also with eco@eco.org.nz. A final synthesis report is to be launched later in the year. For more information on the project, and to download the report and working papers, see [RM Reform Project](http://RMReformProject).

More: <https://www.eds.org.nz/our-work/media/media-statements/media-statements-2019-2/media-release-nbsp-eds-releases-second-working/> plus www.eds.org.nz/our-work/rm-reform-project/ 186 pages, 11.98Mb

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 23rd October 2019. 

Interested in Good News? – Consider This

"*Good Things Guy* is on a mission to change what the world pays attention to. We believe that there is good news all around us and over 1 million readers a month agree with us.

"*Good Things Guy* is dedicated to telling good stories & we like to share things that inspire ...

More: www.goodthingsguy.com/about-us/

Source: Editor, 30th October 2019. 

Governance for Good; Developing the Capability of New Zealand's \$20 billion Not-for-profit Sector

"A report into the future of governance for New Zealand's 114,000 (NGOs), produced by the Centre for Social Impact in partnership with the Superdiversity Institute for Law, Policy and Business, has identified a need for considerable investment into NGO governance capabilities.

"The report '*What is the Future for NGO Governance*', which drew on the experiences of fifteen NGO governance experts, identified a number of barriers to good governance including the low value and low profile of NGO governance, the behaviour of individual board members, the complexity of the NGO context and poor processes around decision-making.

"NGOs in New Zealand generate an estimated \$20 billion in annual income', says researcher and report author, CSI associate, Dr Jo Cribb. 'These NGOs touch the lives of New Zealanders in many ways. They provide services to the elderly, youth, and vulnerable families and whānau. They deliver much of what holds our communities together, such as sports, arts, environmental and cultural programmes. They employ around 100,000 people (nearly 5% of the workforce) and contribute nearly 3% to GDP. If the work of volunteers is included the contribution to GDP rises to 6%. It is in all our interests that they are well-governed.

"What our research found is that while NGO board members play important roles in helping organisations develop strategies and secure funding, few of them have had any formal governance training, and many receive limited support in these roles.'

"Jo said the research aimed to identify good and emerging practice in NGO governance. ...

"The report recommends the development of a national strategy for community governance. ...

More:

www.centreforsocialimpact.org.nz/korero/2019/september/governance-for-good-developing-the-capability-of-new-zealand-s-20-billion-not-for-profit-sector plus www.centreforsocialimpact.org.nz/media/1507/what-is-the-future-for-ngo-governance.pdf 35 pages, 4.84Mb

Source: Charities Services, 23rd Oct 2019. 

Conference 4 Climate: Citizens Assembly

"The purpose of the conference is to workshop the proposal for a Citizens Assembly on climate change to be held in 2020, prior to the 2020 General Election.

"The organisers believe a citizens assembly offers a way of breaking Parliamentary deadlock by taking the climate crisis to a group of ordinary citizens who can look at the evidence without the restrictions of party loyalty. It will make recommendations (to Parliament) which they think will have moral authority; their model is the Irish Citizens Assembly on the difficult issue of abortion, which preceded and guided the recent referendum there.

"The conference will bring together a wide range of community/tangata whenua groups, to plan for a citizen's assembly for 2020. Confirmed keynote speakers include:

- Dr Mike Joy on 'Our climate crisis'
- Diamuid Torney (Irish Citizens Assembly)
- Chloe Swarbrick MP
- Scott Simpson MP
- Max Rashbrooke

When/Where: 11th November, Wellington

More: <https://www.climateemergency.org.nz/accelerator-conference-2019> plus <https://conference-4-climate.lilregie.com/booking/attendees/new>

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 16 October 2019. 

Climate and Business Conference Auckland: Key Takeaways

"The overriding message was that climate change will have a bigger impact, and sooner, than many businesses are preparing for. Businesses are calling for clearer guidance from Government to help them prepare for a low carbon future.

"SBN's key takeaways were;

- The science is alarming.
- Businesses preparing for climate change will fare better.
- New Zealand will have greater certainty on climate policy by Christmas.
- The social licence to emit is expiring.
- Greening finance could be the tipping point
- SMEs need to play their part.....
- Businesses need to communicate in a way that will inspire action and behaviour change
- We should pay heed to traditional knowledge.
- We need a just transition to a low carbon economy.

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/from-talk-to-action-key-take-aways-from-the-climate-change-and-business-conference/>

Source: SBN, 22nd October 2019. 

Climate Risk and the Role of CFOs

"Mike Roan, Chief Financial Officer for Meridian talks about why sustainability is important for the role of CFOs, and why Meridian has become the first company in New Zealand to report using the Taskforce for Climate-Related Financial Disclosure Framework.

More: www.sbc.org.nz/insights/2019/sustainability-radio-episode-five 21:58

Source: SBC, 17th October 2019. 

Ceres Accelerator for Sustainable Capital Markets

"Global capital markets are at a crossroads. If current patterns of behaviour and decision-making with capital markets continue along the current trajectory, the global climate crisis will continue to destroy economic value and unravel the stability of our financial systems.

"Given the urgency to tackle this challenge, Ceres has launched a new centre, the Ceres Accelerator for Sustainable Capital Markets.

"In the last three decades, Ceres and our influential networks have achieved significant progress in integrating sustainability into the capital markets. However, private and public sector progress is not happening fast enough or with the right level of ambition to tackle not only the global climate crisis, but the growing threats around deforestation, water scarcity and pollution.

"Building on our 30 years of leadership and impact, the Ceres Accelerator aims to transform the practices and policies which govern capital markets in order to accelerate action on reducing the worst financial impacts of the climate crisis and other sustainability threats. It will spur capital market influencers to act on these systemic financial risks and drive the large-scale behaviour and systems change needed to achieve a net-zero carbon economy and a just and sustainable future.

"The Ceres Accelerator will:

- ✓ Move financial regulators
- ✓ Work with the world's most influential asset owners to ..

More: www.ceres.org/accelerator plus www.ceres.org/about-us

Source: Ceres, 24th October 2019. 

Asda to Trial Refillable Packaging in Bid to Ditch Plastic

"Asda customers will be able to bring in their own refillable containers from next year in a bid to cut down on plastic. The supermarket giant confirmed they will be trialing reusable and refillable packaging for three months in 2020. The scheme could involve shoppers being able to bring in containers which can be refilled from dispensers within the store. The Walmart-owned company said that by the end of next year, almost a third of Asda's own brand plastic packaging will also come from recycled materials. It is hoped the move could stop almost 20,000 tonnes of non-recycled plastic from ending up in landfill.

"Trials around refillable packaging will last for 'at least' 12 weeks, allowing suppliers to review the process.

More: <https://metro.co.uk/2019/10/26/asda-trial-refillable-packaging-bid-ditch-plastic-10988384/>

Source: Craig Skinner, 29th October 2019. 

How Do Policymakers Access and Use Evidence to Address Complex Problems?

"Science is foundational to life and the planet as we know it. Policymakers understand this, as do scientists. However, the boundary-spanning between policymakers and scientists does not come naturally. Given the current vulnerabilities faced by places, people, ecosystems, and markets, it is essential to create more opportunities for policymakers and scientists to work effectively together.

"The dynamic tension created by the 'pull' of policy and the 'push' of science to be more relevant can create more durable and productive policies while also facilitating stronger relationships between the scientific and decision-making communities. ... this webinar will explore examples shared by policymakers and scientists that demonstrate how evidence can more effectively serve decision-making.

Where/When: Webinar – Wednesday, 13th November 12:30–2:00 p.m. [ET USA](#)

More: www.ncseglobal.org/webinars

Source: National Council for Science and the Environment, 29th October 2019. 

Flights of Fancy: 10 Ways to Imagine Our Way Out of the Climate Crisis

"It's not easy to be a happy environmentalist, but Rob Hopkins might have found a way. In 2005, together with a group of friends in Totnes, Devon, he co-founded what became known as the Transition movement. It seeks to make the world a sustainable place to live, not through protest or resistance, but simply by looking at where you live and making it sustainable. 'It's not that difficult, actually', he says.

"In Totnes, they connected neighbours to share unused gardens. They planted fruit and nut trees in public spaces and bought their own mill. They are now building 27 sustainable homes. And Totnes is just one of the 992 initiatives all over the world that now make up the movement.

"In his new book, *From What Is to What If*, Hopkins looks around this wide network, and elsewhere, at the sometimes brilliant, sometimes eccentric, but always imaginative ideas people have come up with. Sometimes Hopkins can be too imaginative – for instance his summaries of psychology, education and brain science seem wishfully simplistic.

More: www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/16/lond-on-sustainable-environmentalist-tooting-pop-up plus <https://guardianbookshop.com/from-what-is-to-what-if-9781603589055.html>

Source: *Snippets*, 24th October 2019. 

Nissan Leaf Battery Upgrade Project

"New Zealand owners of Nissan Leafs have no options to upgrade their car with a new battery pack to extend the useful life of their car. At Blue Cars we recognised this looming environmental problem years ago and started working on a solution.

"Our first big step was in 2017 when we launched our pilot project with co-funding from EECA. This allowed us to design, build and test our own replacement battery module for a Nissan Leaf. Our new module achieved 45% greater capacity than new original Leaf modules and gave us the confidence to set our sights on a full upgrade solution.

"Since then we've continued to develop further designs and we recently finished building our first full Nissan Leaf upgrade prototype. Our prototype pack gets nearly 200 km in run-out tests and should get over 230 km once we've tweaked the design. There are still some integration issues to solve and lots of testing to prove the long-term reliability, but we are pretty excited by our recent progress!

"We're a young start-up company looking for support to see this project through. Our fundraising target matches the level of co-funding we need to contribute if our latest application to EECA's LEV Fund is successful (we'll find out in December). ...

More: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/nissan-leaf-battery-upgrade-project>

Source: SBN, 22nd October 2019

Editor: As of 30th October \$5,647 of \$38,850 goal raised. 

Doer, Thinker, Dreamer, Agitator – What Makes a Great Sustainability Leader?

"Nobody had heard of it 20 years ago. But today, the job packs a powerful punch in the boardroom – the chief sustainability officer. As this responsibility evolves and becomes more prevalent in Asia, so does the question: what makes a great sustainability leader?

"We have launched a special report to answer this question today, which features interviews with 15 sustainability leaders from the region in energy, palm oil, construction, retail, logistics, fashion and finance.

"We are also excited to announce that at the end of November, we will be unveiling the inaugural Eco-Business A List, a who's who of the region's best sustainability leaders.

"Do you know an outstanding sustainability leader you think should be in the Eco-Business A-List? This individual needs to have made a major, quantifiable impact on the sustainability of their business over the last 12 months.

More: <https://eco-business.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/A99364B3A50732B82540EF23F30FEDED/>, plus the report at www.eco-business.com/news/doer-thinker-dreamer-agitator-what-makes-a-great-sustainability-leader/

Source: eco-Business.com, 17th October 2019

Editor: From article; 'Stage 4; Sustainability as a function does not exist. It is part of everyone's job. Knowledge is shared through centres of excellence.' 

Eliminate – Designing Out Problematic Packaging

"SBN's final 2019 masterclass – *Eliminate – Designing out problematic packaging* and move towards reuse and other models – is coming up on 20th November. If your organisation would like to be involved, please email kate@sustainable.org.nz tickets are limited!

More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/key-take-aways-from-the-second-masterclass-of-our-plastic-packaging-series/>

Source: SBN, 22nd October 2019. 

Former Exxon Scientists Tell Congress of Oil Giant's Climate Research Before Exxon Turned to Denial

"Telling their story before a Congressional committee for the first time, two former ExxonMobil scientists on Wednesday [23rd Oct.] detailed how the oil giant turned its back on the research they did for the company 40 years ago on the looming threat of climate change.

"They gave their testimony in Washington, D.C., just as Exxon went on trial in New York on allegations that it misled investors about climate change risks, underscoring how political and legal risks have dovetailed for a corporate giant that for years tried to sow doubt about the risks of carbon emissions.

"Geochemist Ed Garvey described how Exxon shut down the carbon dioxide research program he worked on for the company from 1978 to 1983.

"After the collapse of world oil prices in 1982, Garvey said, 'they began to sell off things like lithium battery research and other divisions of Exxon research as they retrenched and focused solely on oil.' One of the programs jettisoned was his project to monitor carbon dioxide concentrations in the air and ocean surface from a dedicated station aboard one of the company's super-tankers.

"There was really a sea change ... where they had gone from this very broad-based, very future-looking energy company to becoming an oil company', Garvey told the hearing, ...

"After deepening the company's understanding of an environmental problem it suspected could harm its business, Exxon put its muscle behind efforts to manufacture doubt about the reality of global warming.

More: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23102019/exxon-scientists-climate-research-testify-congress-denial>

Source: *Carbon News*, 25th October 2019

Editor: Article Includes a graph from the 1982 Exxon [43 page] report titled *CO2 Greenhouse Effect: A Technical Review*. The graph shows projections for global temperature rise as the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases. Its projections for 2019 are very close to today's conditions; at <https://insideclimatenews.org/sites/default/files/document/s/1982%20Exxon%20Primer%20on%20CO2%20Greenhouse%20Effect.pdf> ... 

Leading Australian Engineers Turn Their Backs on New Fossil Fuel Projects

"The Engineers Declare movement pledges to put climate considerations first in evaluating plans

"Engineering firms are under increased pressure from their own employees to abandon controversial fossil fuel projects, as the sector turns its attention to the climate crisis.

"About 1,000 Australian engineers and 90 organisations – including large firms and respected industry figures who have worked with fossil fuel companies – have signed a declaration to 'evaluate all new projects against the environmental necessity to mitigate climate change'.

"As the Australian Engineers Declare movement gathers pace, some industry figures say firms work on Adani's Carmichael coalmine project face a potential revolt from staff, and might struggle to recruit highly skilled people.

"In the past few months, integrated services firms Aurecon and Cardno have both announced they would cut ties with Carmichael. The resources lobby has attempted to nullify the impact of environmental activism with veiled threats that companies might be effectively blacklisted from work

on other projects. But little attention has been focused on a likely more compelling factor in those decisions – the influence of employees, whose expertise is the only real asset of most firms.

"I worked in the fossil fuel extraction industry and I'm proud of the projects I worked on', says Robert Care, the 2014 professional engineer of the year, and one of the industry's most influential figures. 'But I wouldn't do that work today, no I wouldn't.'

"Care said most engineers could recognise the energy sector was transitioning, and they should help shape that transition rather than clinging to the way things are. The approach is in contrast to Australia's resources sector, whose sales pitch has been focused on the provision of jobs in thermal coal.

More:

www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/21/leading-engineers-turn-their-backs-on-new-fossil-fuel-projects

Source: *Carbon News*, 22nd October 2019

Editor: Accountants, auditors and lawyers – plus their peak organisations – what's their position? 

Changing the Lives of Kiwis with Disabilities, One Cookie at a Time!

"Did you know that 1 in 4 Kiwis have a disability, but their employment rate is only 22%?

"That's compared to an employment rate of 70% for Kiwis without a disability.

"Co-founders Graeme Haddon and Eric Chuah knew this needed to change, so in June 2018, The Cookie Project was launched to create a brighter future for Kiwis with disabilities via employment pathways.

"The Cookie Project is a social enterprise which employs Kiwis with disabilities to make delicious cookies.

"We bake at the Eat My Lunch kitchen and collaborate with iconic Kiwi brands like Lewis Road Creamery, Pic's Peanut Butter and Trade Aid to deliver premium products which ensure we win by quality – not by sympathy.

"Many may be unaware modern-day slavery is happening right here in New Zealand for the disability community. Before joining The Cookie Project, a number of our bakers were being paid well below the national minimum wage – some as low as \$2.30 an hour! One of our bakers even worked un-paid for as long as 14 years!

"Our employment framework is disrupting the sector and leading the conversation because we don't ask for resumes, we don't conduct interviews, and all of our bakers are paid at least the national minimum wage of \$17.70 an hour.

"We're proud to have over 30 bakers with disabilities on our roster (and many more on the waiting list to join).

"To-date, we've generated over 900 hours of employment for our bakers!

"*Newshub* calls our employment framework 'revolutionary' and we're honoured to have been recognised for seven awards this year already.

"We've successfully validated the market appetite for our delicious cookies and have refined our business model.

"Now, we're ready to enter Phase Two of scaling up our social enterprise through the retail distribution of our products.

More: www.pledgeme.co.nz/projects/6288-changing-the-lives-of-kiwis-with-disabilities-one-cookie-at-a-time

Source: Rob Skinner, 20th October 2019. 