

20 October 2021

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Tēnā koe S 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 September 2021, requesting information about Corrections' transition to becoming carbon neutral by 2025. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Corrections acknowledges our kaitiakitanga (guardianship) responsibility for the protection and sustainability of our natural resources. By managing our carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency, our goal is to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment. We are committed to ensuring we comply with all relevant statutory legislation and regulations, including the Resource Management Act 1991, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000, and the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

In March 2019, Corrections' Chief Executive, Jeremy Lightfoot, confirmed the Department's commitment to reducing the fleet's greenhouse gas emissions profile and moving the light commercial fleet to emissions free where practical. Corrections is in the process of developing a Fleet Decarbonisation Transition Plan that will reduce the carbon footprint of the fleet and provide options to meet zero-carbon commitments made by the Chief Executive to the Minister.

You requested:

1. *Have you got a policy inside your department for zero-carbon use by 2025 and what is the official wording of it?*

Corrections fully supports the Government's priority of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions profile of the government vehicle fleet, and working towards a zero emission light vehicle fleet. Corrections is currently in the process of developing policies for zero carbon use by 2025.

2. *Can you provide the mechanisms you are using to measure and verify your department's emissions? Such as the ones articulated on page 36 of your 2019/2020 annual report?*

Corrections has gathered information from multiple sources, including invoices, travel and fleet management systems, finance, and procurement systems. Emissions are verified in accordance with the Carbon Neutral Government Programme.

3. *What structure have you set up with how many staff, such as a zero carbon committee?*

Corrections has a dedicated environmental team of three staff who report into a bi-weekly environmental working group, chaired by the Chief Financial Officer.

4. *What are the main areas you have identified to meet mitigation and reduction goals? Are these goals more specific than your sustainable development initiative previously used in annual reports?*
 a. *For each of these goals, what is your work plan?*

In 2019/20 Corrections began working towards the Government's target of making light vehicle fleets emission-free, piloting 11 electric vehicles. Since then, Corrections has developed two, four-year programmes in flight that will see the further uplift of supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure with the additional uplift of its electric vehicles.

During 2019/20, Corrections identified and diverted 6.8 percent (324 tonnes) of waste from prisons and Community Corrections sites away from landfill. In partnership with Waste Management, we have already established extensive recycling programmes at Rimutaka and Christchurch Men's prisons, and Spring Hill Corrections Facility.

Accelerated investment in digital connectivity as a result of COVID-19 continues to support employees to work remotely, thereby reducing CO2 emissions associated with staff travel to and from work.

Corrections is currently developing a decarbonisation pathway and will set emission reduction targets aligned to our prioritised decarbonisation initiatives.

Information about carbon emissions for the 2020/21 financial year will soon be published in our upcoming Annual Report, which will be published in the coming weeks.

5. *When do you plan to phase out coal?*

The transition from coal to wood pellets will be complete by June 2023.

6. *When can we expect your transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs) to be complete? Are you planning on reducing your fleet size?*

Since 2019, Corrections has commenced, where practical, to transition our light commercial car fleet to electric cars and will continue to do so along with the decarbonisation planning of its entire fleet by 2031.

As part of Corrections' wider inflight initiatives to make the fleet safer, greener and more productive we are also currently working on smart vehicle systems technology, including telematics, to optimise the utilisation rate of the fleet including the right

sizing of the fleet. This technology is expected to reduce the size of the fleet by more than 100 vehicles when fully implemented.

In respect of Electric Vehicles, Corrections has committed funding to roll out charging infrastructure at 19 prisons and 150 Community Corrections facilities throughout New Zealand over the next four years. Along with the 2019/20 electric vehicle pilot and the first phase of the rollout, approximately 184 chargers will be installed at 62 sites by the end of 2024.

By 2023/24, the electric vehicle pilot, along with the current four-year replacement programme plan, Corrections will have 77 battery electric vehicles in the fleet in addition to the 101 petrol hybrids already in the fleet. An assessment of options to accelerate the rollout of electric cars is currently underway and will be considered by management in 2022.

7. How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?

Corrections has recently started its journey around obtaining the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERSNZ) ratings for offices across the property estate.

We are about to begin work with an Accredited Assessor that will involve working through the NABERS Rules – Energy and Water for Office V1.2, that will provide a detailed set of rules around the eligibility of buildings across our estate. Our diverse property estate that consists of Custodial (Prisons) sites and Non-Custodial sites (Probation Centres, etc) creates a number of challenges when applying the Rules around rated area.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



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