

25 March 2021

Climate Change Commission
He Pou a Rangi
Wellington
By email: hello@climatecommission.govt.nz
Attention: Submissions Analysis Team

Tēnā koe

CLIMATE ACTION FOR AOTEAROA: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT

The Auckland District Law Society ('ADLS') thanks He Pou a Rangi, the Climate Change Commission for the opportunity to provide feedback on its draft advice to Government. We have focused our feedback on your identification of the need for central and local government to be working in partnership, especially to reduce emissions from urban form.

We agree that local government plays an important role in facilitating the transition to a thriving, climate-resilient and low-emissions Aotearoa. We also agree with the importance of coordination between central and local government and that there must be policy alignment across the Local Government Act, the Building Act and Code, the Resource Management Act (RMA), national direction under the RMA, the proposed RMA reforms and the national infrastructure plan.

We also support actions to reduce emissions from urban form and consider it critical to achieving sustainable emissions reductions in our urban areas. Alignment and consistency both within central government in between central and local government is necessary to ensure the recommended urban form actions can be successfully implemented. We also agree it is critical that this is thoroughly considered as part of the resource management reforms.

We hold concerns that there is a lack of alignment and consistency within some existing national policy documents between climate change objectives and policies and urban development.

We agree with the Commission that urban form, specifically a compact urban form with well-integrated transport and land use and a mixture of land uses, is critical in reducing the need to travel, thus reducing trip length and improving the viability and usage of low-zero emission transport options, such as walking, cycling and public transport. Efficient, affordable and interconnected public and

active transport networks are a critical companion to a compact urban form.

Finally, we agree that any disconnect between central and local government agencies responsible for urban design and transport will be a barrier to integrated urban design to reduce emissions.

We believe greater emphasis should be placed on the need for central and local government to be working in partnership, especially regarding urban form, in your recommended actions for local and central government as well as the transport sector.

Ngā mihi



Helen Andrews

Convenor, ADLS Environment and Resource Management Law Committee

