

# To all Members of Parliament,

Congratulations on your election. We warmly welcome you to your role representing us.

As our elected leaders, you have a responsibility to engage with the big issues facing our country, and make responsible and enlightened decisions in our best interests.

Right now, leaders of 125 countries are gathering in New York for the UN Climate Summit. Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to turn out to meet them in the largest climate march in history. They are there because the climate crisis - caused by burning of fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas pollution - poses an immense threat to the future health, security and prosperity of every person in every nation on our planet.

On our current high emissions path, today's children are expected to live to experience a 4°C hotter world; a radical change to which the World Bank concludes "there is no certainty we can adapt".<sup>1</sup> To safeguard their future we must aim to achieve zero net CO2 emissions in the second half of the century, alongside cuts in other greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup> This is a challenge we can meet if we act with urgency and foresight today.

This election, more than 62,000 Kiwis signed on as Climate Voters calling for all parties to step up to the challenge.

The good news is we don't have to choose between strong action on climate change and a strong

economy. In fact, the message from the Better Growth, Better Climate report released this week is that the two can and must go hand-in-hand.<sup>3</sup> To quote one of the authors, economist Lord Nicholas Stern, "Reducing emissions is not only compatible with economic growth and development - if done well it can actually generate better growth than the old high-carbon model."

This defining global challenge is New Zealand's opportunity - a clean energy future is 100% possible. But today we are missing in action. From a moral and an economic standpoint, New Zealand cannot afford three more years of business-as-usual.

Whichever parties form the next Government, today is our moment to push the reset button and look freshly at the huge challenge and opportunities of climate change. Today, we must start building broad commitment in Parliament and throughout our society to embark on a genuine low carbon direction for our country and the world.

As our leaders, the next three years is your opportunity to prove that you are worthy of the title.

Yours on behalf of 62,000 Climate Voters.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C World Must Be Avoided.

<sup>2</sup> OECD, The climate challenge: Achieving zero emissions

<sup>3</sup> See [www.newclimateeconomy.report](http://www.newclimateeconomy.report)

