



16 July 2019

Our ref: LH19-032

Environment Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

via email: [zerocarbon@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:zerocarbon@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe,

### **Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill**

Thank you for giving The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners the opportunity to comment on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill. The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners' kaupapa is to set and maintain education and quality standards for general practice and support our members to provide competent, equitable care to their patients. We do this to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities.

The College supports legislation to create a framework for policies to limit global average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. As part of that framework, the College also supports the establishment of a Climate Change Commission, emission reduction targets, and national climate change risk assessment and adaptation plans.

The College would like to comment on one aspect of the Zero Carbon Bill. The Bill's explanatory note states that "requiring all organisations, companies, and firms to report on adaptation risks and efforts under the Bill was considered to be cumbersome at this time." However, it does go on to mention that in the future required reporting could be beneficial.

The College requests that the immediate intention to limit the scope of reporting organisations is clarified in the legislation. We are concerned that the possibility exists for reporting organisations to pass their climate change reporting requirements into contracts with other organisations, which would be contrary to the intent of the Bill. We suggest that the reporting organisations listed in the legislation are restricted from including climate change reporting requirements in their contracts with other organisations as a substitute for their own responsibilities under legislation.

We will monitor ongoing discussions with government on the impact future required reporting will have on our members. There is no doubt that future threats to health will present in various ways across New Zealand and any increased risk of biological or social threats to the health of New Zealand will require a comprehensive solution. In response to discussions across government the College will remain open to comment on the health concerns stemming from climate change.

Additionally, we will continue to encourage further research to understand the connections between climate change, demographic shifts and social changes, and the impact on human health. As we grow in our understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, we will continue to foster discussion and advocate for meaningful responses through appropriate channels.

Nāku nō, nā



**Lynne Hayman**  
Chief Executive