

## Briefing Note: Further advice on the December 2021 Education report-back to Carbon Neutral Government Programme Ministers

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	8 March 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1281623
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<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	N/A

### Purpose of Report

This paper provides you with advice on the Ministry for the Environment's commentary on the Ministry of Education's report back to Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP) Ministers on emissions reporting for the State schooling sector [METIS 1277851 refers].

It also provides talking points if the report-back is discussed at the 17 March meeting of CNGP Ministers.

### Summary

- You are a member of the CNGP Ministerial Group, in your capacity as Minister for the Public Service.
- In December 2021, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) provided you with a report back to CNGP Ministers on emissions reporting for the state schooling sector [METIS 1277851 refers]. You shared this with CNGP Ministers in January 2022.
- You agreed to the Ministry's recommended option – report on emissions sources that can be easily and effectively collected centrally, representing approximately 75% of total emissions across the state schooling sector, and model the remaining carbon emissions.
- The report-back is currently being considered by CNGP Ministers, and may be discussed at the 17 March meeting of CNGP Ministers.
- The Minister of Climate Change requested feedback from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) on our report-back on emissions reporting for the state schooling sector. This advice was also provided to the Minister for Economic and Regional Development.
- The Ministry and MfE met on 3 February 2022 to discuss the matters raised in MfE's advice, and agreed to next steps, as laid out in this briefing note.

## Proactive Release

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- a. **agree** that this briefing note will be proactively released subject to any redactions necessary under the Official Information Act 1982 and following final decisions by Carbon Neutral Government Programme Ministers.

Agree / Disagree



Scott Evans  
Hautū, Te Puna Hanganga, Matihiko

08/03/2022



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

13 / 3 / 2022

I'm not convinced that requiring schools to report emissions from air travel is that much of an impost, and it might get them thinking twice about spending scarce \$ on flights when a Zoom could fill the need cheaply and in a more time-efficient manner. I'd also be keen to see us lean in more on waste minimisation. A lot of schools are already ahead of the curve on this. Off.

## Background

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1. Cabinet established the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP) in November 2020, which aims to make selected government organisations carbon neutral by 2025. At that time, Cabinet recognised that many School Boards were unlikely to have the capacity or capability to undertake comprehensive emissions reporting as part of the CNGP, and an alternative approach to emissions reporting may be required [CAB-20-MIN-0491].
2. In March 2021, the Cabinet Business Committee agreed that the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) would undertake emissions reporting for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions sources on behalf of the state schooling sector [CBC-21-MIN-0030].
3. Cabinet agreed that the baseline reporting year for the state schooling sector is 2022/23, with the first emissions reduction plan due in December 2023 [CBC-21-MIN-0030]. Cabinet directed the Ministry to report back to CNGP Ministers in December 2021, with a proposed scope of emissions sources that could be reported on centrally.

## Emissions reporting for the state schooling sector

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4. The Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), developed advice on emissions reporting for the state schooling sector that support the Government's environmental and educational objectives. This advice was provided to you in December 2021, and you provided this to CNGP Ministers in January 2022 [METIS 1277851 refers]. This is likely to be formally considered at the CNGP Ministers meeting on 17 March.
5. The recommended approach, which you agreed to, seeks to measure emissions that can be collected centrally directly from retailers (i.e. electricity and gas consumption) and model those emissions that cannot be efficiently or effectively collected (i.e. air travel, waste-to-landfill) to minimise the administrative burden on schools in the line with the Government's Reform of Tomorrow's Schools System.

## MfE's Commentary on the Ministry's CNGP Report Back

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6. The Minister of Climate Change requested MfE's comments on the Ministry's report back. This was also provided to the Minister for Economic and Regional Development.
7. It was MfE's view that the report-back could be more ambitious for the education sector, with improvements to how data capture is expanded over time and how schools are encouraged to participate. They made three recommendations:
  - a. Air travel emissions should be in scope for Education emissions reporting from 2022/2023
  - b. The Ministry to report back to CNGP Ministers by July 2022 on:
    - i. The development of guidance for schools to reduce their emissions, and
    - ii. A carbon roadmap for making improvements to emissions reporting for schools over time (including how air travel emissions will be incorporated).
10. We met with MfE on 3 February 2022, to discuss these concerns and agreed on next steps, as outlined in Appendix 1.

11. Talking points to support a discussion at the 17 March meeting of CNGP Ministers are attached as Appendix 2.

## Next Steps

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10. We have agreed with MfE to provide a report back to CNGP Ministers in July 2022 on the rollout of the school guidance package. As part of the July 2022 advice, we will include the Ministry's plan to further develop emissions reporting throughout 2022/23 and reduce emissions in line with a 1.5-degree pathway.
11. We will continue to work with MfE to ensure our approach meets these objectives. This includes engaging on efforts to improve our data collection and working together on the development of guidance for schools to empower them to reduce their carbon emissions.

## Appendix 1: Ministry comment on Ministry for the Environment recommendations

Ministry for the Environment recommendation	Ministry of Education comment	Next steps, as agreed by MoE and MfE
1. Air travel emissions should be in scope for MoE emissions reporting from 2022/2023	<p>Widening the reporting scope further for 1 July 2022 to include air travel, will require the development of additional new systems and processes, and increase the burden on schools, at a time when the sector is under pressure due to the current context of COVID-19 and the pattern of air travel in the sector has substantially changed.</p> <p>We intend to explore ways to capture data not currently within scope, particularly air travel, in the second half of 2022 after we have created new systems and processes to enable the recommended reporting. It is our view that widening our reporting scope should be managed in a measured fashion, with a view to implementing from the 2023/24 reporting year.</p>	MoE to report back to CNGP Ministers in July 2022 on the Ministry's plan to widen the scope of emissions reporting, particularly air travel.
2. MoE to report back to CNGP Ministers by July 2022 on the development of guidance for schools, including how schools will be encouraged and empowered to participate, and the development of tools, guidance, and support networks for schools to measure and reduce their emissions	<p>We are supportive of a report back to CNGP Ministers and will continue working with MfE and other relevant agencies on the development of this guidance.</p> <p>We are supportive of MfE's intent for this guidance to include information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How schools, who wish to, can measure and reduce their carbon footprint</li> <li>• How established internal and external networks can help support the schooling sector in their efforts.</li> </ul>	<p>MoE to report back to CNGP Ministers in July 2022 on the guidance for schools to reduce their emissions.</p> <p>MOE, with support from EECA and MfE, to develop school guidance on emissions reductions strategies.</p>
3. MoE to report back to CNGP Ministers by July 2022 on a plan to establish a carbon roadmap, including improvements to emissions reporting for schools over time (including how air travel	As outlined in the report back, the Ministry is aware of the need to widen the scope of emissions reporting over time, while managing competing demands of limiting the burden on schools with the need to involve schools (as decision-makers) to make carbon reductions aligned to a 1.5 degree reduction pathway with reduction targets for 2025 and 2030.	MoE to report back to CNGP Ministers in July 2022 on the Ministry's plan to widen the scope of emissions reporting and reduce emissions in line with the first formal CNGP reduction plan for Tranche Two agencies (including school

emissions will be incorporated), and carbon reduction plan aligned to a 1.5 degree reduction pathway		boards), due in December 2023. As per CNGP requirements, the reduction plan should be aligned to a 1.5 degree reduction pathway, including reduction targets for 2025 and 2030.
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