

# Open letter to Jacinda Ardern: End oil exploration in New Zealand

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**Dear Prime Minister,**

Your commitment to make climate change the nuclear-free moment of your generation has the power to inspire a nation, and indeed the world. We are calling on you to turn this passion into action, by taking bold and decisive measures to protect our future and our children's future.

Together, we pledge support for the New Zealand Government to end oil and gas exploration now, as a vital step in addressing climate change.

We must apply our ambition, ingenuity, and courage to hasten the transition to a stable and resilient society, powered by clean energy.

The climate science is clear. If we are to avoid catastrophic impacts, the world cannot afford to burn even existing reserves of fossil fuels, let alone seek out and burn new reserves.

Climate change is an existential threat, posing grave danger to our health, homes, communities, food security, culture and livelihoods, as well as the wildlife and wild places with which we share this Earth.

Climate change is an injustice that disproportionately affects our neighbours and kin in the Pacific, developing nations, indigenous people, people of colour, women and poorer working people. These are also the people who are least responsible for causing this crisis.

But the steps we take to address this threat also provide us with opportunities to move towards a more just and equal society, to boost innovation and employment, create more resilient communities, improve our health, and live in better balance with nature.

Now is the time to back the booming clean energy industries, and invite the transformational economic opportunities that shifting to a low-carbon society can bring. This must be a just transition - one that fairly distributes the costs and benefits across the economy and provides opportunities for those affected to actively engage in determining the future wellbeing of themselves and their families.

More than ever, the world needs bold leadership. We wholeheartedly support your ambition for New Zealand to be at the forefront of this planetary challenge. Not only can we live without fossil fuels, but we must. If our small nation can again inspire the world, as we did in our stand against nuclear weapons, then we would earn our place on the right side of history. Ending the development of new oil, gas and coal now, is vital to that success.

**Yours Sincerely,**

Sir Alan Mark, FRSNZ, KNZM, Chair, Wise Response Society NZ  
Jeanette Fitzsimons, CNZM, Former Co-Leader, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand  
Dr J. Morgan Williams, Former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment  
Rt Hon Sir Edmund Thomas LLB(NZ) LLD(VUW) KNZM QC  
Dave Cull, Mayor of Dunedin

Prof Margaret Mutu FRSNZ, Chairperson, Te Rūnanga-ā-Iwi o Ngāti Kahu  
Toro Waaka, Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust  
Rikirangi Gage - Te Whānau a Apanui  
Toa Faneva - Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa

Kerri Nuku, Kaiwhakahaere & Grant Brookes, President, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa)  
Glenn Barclay, National Secretary, Public Service Association (Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi)  
Gary Cranston, climate justice spokesperson and fast food lead organiser Auckland, Northland, Unite Union  
Sandra Grey, President, Tertiary Education Union (Te Hautū Kahurangi o Aotearoa)  
Paul Goulter, National Secretary, NZEI Te Riu Roa

Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh, Assoc. Prof, Poet Laureate  
Lucy Lawless, ONZM, Actor  
Tiki Taane, Musical Activist  
Robyn Malcolm, NZ Actress  
Peter Lange, MNZM, Potter

Prof Grant Guilford, Vice-Chancellor, Victoria University of Wellington  
Prof James Renwick, Victoria University of Wellington climate scientist  
Prof Ralph Sims, Massey University and the Global Environment Facility  
Dr Jim Salinger, Climate change scientist  
Dr Terrence Loomis, Coordinator, Fossil Fuels Aotearoa Research Network (FFARN)  
Dr Bob Lloyd, Associate Professor (ret), Climate Consultant Pacific Region  
Prof Jonathan Boston, Professor of Public Policy, Victoria University of Wellington

Dr Kate Baddock, Chair, New Zealand Medical Association  
Dr Felicity Dumble, President, New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine  
Warren Lindberg, MNZM, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association of New Zealand  
Dr Rhys Jones & Dr Alex Macmillan, Co-convenors, OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council  
Dr Rye Senjen, Scientific Advisor Environmental and Human Health Aotearoa

Rt Rev Justin Duckworth, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Wellington  
Rev Dr Peter Matheson, Emeritus Professor, Knox Church, Dunedin

Phillip Mills, Managing Director of Les Mills International  
Michael Mayell, Founder, Cookie Time  
Chris Morrison, Co-Founder, Karma Cola and All Good  
Brendan Winitana, Chair, Sustainable Electricity Association of New Zealand  
Malcolm Rands, Founder, Ecostore

Livia Esterhazy, Chief Executive Officer, WWF-New Zealand  
Kevin Hague, Chief Executive, Forest and Bird  
Niamh O'Flynn, Executive Director, 350 Aotearoa  
Rachael Le Mesurier, Executive Director, Oxfam New Zealand  
Dr Russel Norman, Executive Director, Greenpeace New Zealand  
Rosemary Penwarden, Coordinator, Oil Free Otago  
Cindy Baxter, Coordinator, Coal Action Network  
Emily Bailey, Climate Justice Taranaki  
Robyn Harris-Iles, Coordinator, Frack Free Aotearoa New Zealand  
Denys Trussell, Friends of the Earth  
Guy Salmon, Ecologic  
Gary Taylor, Environmental Defence Society