

**Submission
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (NET ZERO
FUTURE) BILL 2023**

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I first learnt about the cost that increasing of green house gases in the atmosphere from fossil fuel industries was going to have in the early 1970s, some 50 years ago, when the science was first beginning to crystallise. What was predicted then, and we are seeing now, are severe and long-term negative impacts on human well-being across all areas, and, of course, on our natural eco-systems and wildlife.

Throughout that time successive governments have ignored the science and the increasingly desperate calls from scientists to urgently DO SOMETHING!! Governments at first denied, then placated, then tinkered around the edges whilst the problems escalated and we are now in the crisis of beginning to live the consequences of their failures.

As a retired psychologist, who specialised in trauma therapy, I see all around me, here and across the world, increasing trauma, anxiety, desperation, depression and hopelessness, particularly in our young people. I feel it myself. There is no therapy, that can disguise the reality of the world that our young people are inheriting from us, no placations, medications or cognitive interventions that can mitigate this reality.

As a volunteer fire-fighter, with other volunteers, I put my physical health and well-being on the line to attempt to limit in a small way, the increasingly severe and catastrophic fires and other disasters that are fueled by global warming. I do so with the awareness my own health suffers as a result with increasing risks of various cancers, lung and heart disease that fire-fighters are so vulnerable to.

I urge the government strongly that there is no more time to obfuscate and delay. Climate crisis is here now and we are all paying the price. This is the most important issue of our time and we need our political leaders to act as if it is the absolute and critical emergency that it is.

