

Feedback from the Ōrākei Local Board on the Productivity Commission's issues paper on the Low Emissions Economy

Ōrākei Local Board members would like to emphasise that they have not had sufficient time to discuss the issues paper fully amongst themselves. Having only four working days to provide feedback is unacceptable. In response to the questions posed in the powerpoint presentation sent to them, please find some initial thoughts below:

- Q1 and 21 - The Commission can add value by stating what regulatory assessment reviews it will link its recommendations to, which will clarify whether it expects to influence ministerial policy advisors to recommend legislative change or not.
- Q5 - No number of options for encouraging alternative low-emissions in land uses can be achieved unless the government changes the RMA to allow local councils to set by laws for tree protection across the board, be it in residential or rural zone areas. Trees, whether they are in forests, reserves or back-yards, are an important emissions management tool.
- Q9 - Policies assuring fuel powered car owners to redeem scheduled values of fuel powered cars when trading in for electric ones
- Q10 and Q19 and 21 - Making filters mandatory on all heavier vehicle and public transport exhaust systems, and then transitioning in the same on private cars and bikes.
- At the local level, the Ōrākei Local Board plants hundreds of trees each year in its area, both as part of its capital works and maintenance programmes and through planting events organised by voluntary community groups. If this activity is being undertaken within all local board areas in Auckland, a significant number of trees are being planted each year.
- Together with the Mayor's Million Trees initiative, these plantings will contribute to off-setting Auckland's carbon emissions, but there appears to be no central repository within Council to account for all the trees planted.

27 September 2017.