



19 March 2025

Hon. Simon Watts
Minister for Energy and Minister of Climate Change
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister Watts,

We, the members of [Kiwis in Climate](#), are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent appointment of Mr. John Carnegie to the Board of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). While we acknowledge Mr. Carnegie's extensive background in business and leadership, we think his appointment is fundamentally incompatible with the core mission and values of EECA, particularly in the context of New Zealand's pressing climate and energy challenges.

As you are aware, EECA plays a pivotal role in driving the nation's transition to a low-emission, sustainable energy future. It is responsible for championing energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy, and guiding the country towards meeting its climate commitments. In this critical role, the board should consist of individuals who not only have experience and expertise but also a genuine commitment to credible climate action and sustainability.

Mr. Carnegie's record raises significant concerns. His history of involvement in the oil and gas sector, his lack of demonstrated engagement with transformative climate action, and his public comments against a speedy transition to renewable energy production suggest that he does not share the necessary values, skills or vision to advance EECA's work. Appointing individuals with close ties to industries that are primarily responsible for climate change risks undermining the authority's independence and the integrity of its mission.

As a country, we must prioritise leadership that is fully committed to reducing emissions and transitioning to a more efficient, less volatile, and cheaper clean energy system. It is essential that the leadership of EECA reflects the urgency and seriousness of this challenge, and that the decisions made by its board serve the interests of current and future generations of New Zealanders. Further to this we can see through our global network that such an appointment is very damaging to the integrity of New Zealand's climate change commitments and ability to deliver on our global goals. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to reconsider and reverse the decision made by your predecessor, Hon. Simeon Brown, to appoint Mr Carnegie.

Kiwis in Climate remain committed to working together with all those in power to ensure that New Zealand leads the way on climate action, and we trust that as the Minister for both Energy and Climate Change you will give serious consideration to this matter as you continue to serve the interests of our nation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Kiwis in Climate

Kiwis in Climate (“KiC”) is a global professional network of New Zealanders working in climate and sustainability. Our members include executive leaders, academics, consultants, and experts from a range of fields including business, non-profit, science, law, engineering, and policy.

Our [kaupapa](#) is to share knowledge and insights that accelerate science-backed and evidence-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change, while ensuring our economy, environment and communities are thriving and resilient.

The diverse make-up of KiC and cross-pollination of ideas gives us a unique view of Aotearoa New Zealand’s progress on climate change and economic development on the global stage as well as the opportunities and risks to New Zealand from collective global action (or inaction). Collective views are informed by world leading practice by Kiwis who are on the ground developing the solutions.

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