Kiwis in Climate

Open Letter: Stop the LNG Terminal project

To the Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister

CC: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Energy; Hon Nicola Wilis, Minister of Finance; and Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Resources

RE: Stop the LNG Terminal project: invest in New Zealand's energy future

4th November 2026

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

We write as a network of professionals working across climate, energy, economics, and business to urge your Government to stop progressing the proposed LNG import project and prioritise an affordable, resilient, low-emissions energy system.

We, Kiwis in Climate, are deeply concerned about the economic consequences for New Zealanders. In our assessment, the business case presented to date does not justify proceeding. Fundamental questions about total costs, supply arrangements and long-term financial exposure remain inadequately answered.

Now is the time to build the clean, reliable energy system that will power a modern New Zealand economy. Investing in homegrown renewable energy offers the opportunity to retain more value here, support local businesses and jobs, and reduce ongoing payments to overseas fossil fuel suppliers.

New Zealanders deserve confidence and transparency that energy decisions serve their long-term interests. We do not believe the public case for this project meets that test.

Our opposition centres on three concerns:

- **Affordability:** The cost extends well beyond a terminal. Shipping, storage, fuel purchases and exposure to international LNG prices and exchange rates all matter. Households and businesses deserve to know who pays if promised savings fail to materialise, and who carries the risk of higher costs.
- **Resilience:** The war involving Iran and disruption to Middle Eastern energy supplies demonstrate the economic risks of reliance on international fossil fuel markets. These effects extend beyond immediate price spikes: damage to infrastructure can constrain supply for years. New Zealand cannot control these conflicts, but your Government can choose whether to deepen our exposure to them.
- **Investment:** New fossil fuel infrastructure will lock us into paying into overseas fossil fuel corporations, diverting resources and attention from New Zealand-made renewable generation, efficiency, flexibility and storage.

A terminal does not guarantee affordable fuel. Before committing New Zealand to the infrastructure, the Government must justify the whole system and show why it has ruled out better alternatives.

The continued pursuit of LNG without a sufficiently transparent public case raises serious questions about the quality of decision-making and whose interests are being prioritised.

We want the Government to publish the updated business case, the assessment of alternatives and the proposed allocation of financial risk, with only genuinely commercially sensitive information withheld. New Zealanders should be able to see who benefits, who pays and who is accountable if the assumptions prove wrong. Repeating promises of affordability and security is not enough.

We call on the current National-led Government to confirm it will not proceed with the project and to disclose any commitments already made on the public's behalf.

New Zealand needs a coherent energy strategy that reduces exposure to ongoing fossil fuel price volatility and keeps more of our energy spending within our own economy. Reliance on imported LNG risks exposing households and businesses to international price shocks for years to come.

At Kiwis in Climate, we are well placed to support the Government in this work. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with ministers and officials, contribute our collective expertise and help develop practical alternatives.

Greater use of New Zealand's own renewable resources, supported by investment in infrastructure, efficiency, flexibility and storage, can strengthen our energy sovereignty, secure reliable supply and reduce exposure to international LNG market volatility. We oppose proceeding with this project on the case presented to date.

Yours sincerely,

Kiwis in Climate

A global network of New Zealand climate and sustainability professionals

www.kiwisinclimate.org

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.