

**Climate Correspondent 2024, No 11, 28 Whiringa-ā-rangi**  
*Arohatia te Taiao: Love for the Environment*

**Quakers and the COP**

Kia ora f/Friends

We have babies. 17 babies! I get very excited because I expected none and developed a bad case of un-Quakerly jealousy of other peoples' harakeke (flax) buds.

I started naming them: Rāhina, Rātū, Rāapa, Rāpare ... and then (even more excitingly) ran out of names. So they became tahi, rua, toru ... .



**Regenerating Aotearoa NZ opportunity**

Many Aotearoa NZ Friends will have unwound at Derry and Elizabeth's spot at Le Bons Bay (Banks Peninsula / Horomaka). It is nearly 100 acres of hillside land beside a river with a path to the Le Bons Bay beach. For Derry and Elizabeth, it is time to sell. For the rest of us, we can help turn the land into a public reserve everyone can enjoy.

People with strong connections to Le Bons including our own Charlotte Gordon have set up the Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust and they have already collected 75% of the needed funds. So, with a little hoosh to get the last dollars, we can contribute to regenerating a little patch of Aotearoa NZ. Find out more at <https://lbbct.org/our-vision>. Contributions tiny or tremendous can be made at <https://lbbct.org/support>.

**'Need to knows' for Quakers**

1. Good reliable information is getting harder to obtain
2. Government is consulting on its 2035 emissions reduction target **until December 8** [here](#)
3. **10 December** – Climate Change Commission webinar on Aotearoa NZ emissions - [register](#)
4. COP 29 eventually reached agreement - 33 hours late

**Information is hard to get**

COP 28 last year came with a deluge of information. It has been much harder following COP 29. Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)'s chaired a session on *What Really Makes Us Safe? Peace, Climate Finance, and Climate Action in an Existential Time*. UN budget cuts prevented a livestream and USA organisation, [Quaker Earthcare Witness](#), tells us we will get a public link when one becomes available.

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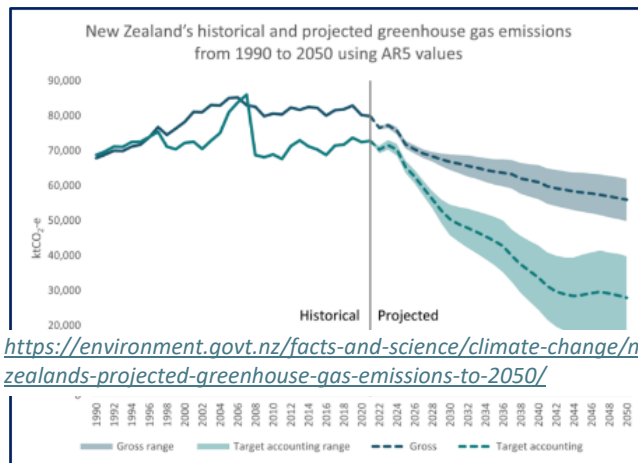
## Aotearoa NZ emissions goals consultation (big opportunity for us)

Back in 2021, NZ agreed to reduce its emissions by 50 per cent of our 2005 gross level by 2030. Official documents say we are on track to meet the 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goal. That track has been helped by (a) Covid19, and (b) large amounts of rain filling up our storage lakes in 2022.

We are now due to set our NDC goal for 2031 – 2035 which must reach beyond the 2030 goal. So far, total emissions have fallen by around 10% since 2005.

The new plan is due in February 2025, and the Climate Change Commission's independent advice and evidence says we need to take bigger steps right now. See

<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/news/commission-releases-report-on-domestic-contribution-to-the-second-nationally-determined-contribution/>



Government has summarised the Commission's advice – see

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/Potential-domestic-contribution-to-Aotearoa-New-Zealands-second-Nationally-Determined-Contribution.pdf>.

**And has a survey asking for our views before December 8** - see

<https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/second-nationally-determined-contribution/consultation/>

**Completely confused?** An article that may help is at <https://www.interest.co.nz/rural-news/130686/reductions-pastoral-farming-among-advice-unveiled-climate-change-commission-how>

## Meantime ... we have had the Conference of the Parties (COP29)

My 10 sentences summary is:

- 1. What and where?** - Over 50,000 people from 196 countries attended the UN Conference of the Parties at Baku, Azerbaijan on 11-23 November to progress climate change issues.
- 2. Why was it controversial?** – In the background were: Azerbaijan's reputation as a petrostate with human rights issues; Donald Trump's re-election and climate change hoax comments; a fractured multi-lateral context; domestic pressures in many countries; conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine; numerous world leaders not turning up; and significant weather-related emergencies around the globe.
- 3. What was on the agenda?** – This was known as the 'Money COP' because it was about financially wealthier countries helping financially poorer countries deal with the impacts of climate change and obtaining cleaner energy sources – known as the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG); rules about carbon credits also featured.

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4. **So, what happened about the money?** - Richer countries did eventually agree to increase their contributions and pay poorer countries at least US\$300 billion per year by 2035, but the poorer countries wanted \$1.3 trillion per year. If this figure looks large, it is just over half of global military spending of \$2.4 trillion per year.
5. **What about carbon credits?** – All 196 parties agreed to rules around countries or companies buying credits for removing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the world, then counting the reductions as part of their own climate efforts (Article 6), which may or may not be a good thing and is better explained [here](#).
6. **Aotearoa NZ's role?** Climate Change Minister Simon Watts co-chaired the discussion on carbon markets; announced NZ was *committing a further \$10 million to the Loss and Damage fund*; said that we want to *further improve the world-leading sustainability of our agricultural production*; but left early for another appointment.
7. **And other Pacific nations?** Well, ..., [Papua New Guinea](#) did not go, saying *[t]hose who hold the biggest carbon footprint, whether they are nations or industries, there is no serious commitment towards shutting down fossil fuel energy sources and preserving our forest*; [Vanuatu's](#) special envoy said *[t]he commitments made in Baku — the dollar amounts pledged and the emissions reductions promised — are not enough. They were never going to be enough. And even then, based on our experience with such pledges in the past, we know they will not be fulfilled*.
8. **What about Quakers?** - Lindsey Fielder Cook and Johan Cavert representing QUNO, shared a briefing paper, chaired a side event *on Peace, Climate Finance, and Climate Action* (see Information section above), expressed concern about polarisation at COP 29; they may say much was as they expected (see QUNO World Plenary video or transcript).
9. **There are many concerns aren't there?** – 'Moving away from fossil fuels' received little reinforcement; rich countries face conflicting pressures at home (e.g. see Taxpayers' Union concerns) and are reluctant to spend; poor countries want serious assistance rather than extra loans; renewable energy use is expanding rapidly, fossil fuel use is growing as well; and, the COP agreements made are seen as having many flaws (see Marc Daalder's article on why getting together and trying to sort it out is better than not getting together and not trying).
10. **Where to from here?** – COP 30 will be held in Belém in the Amazon in Brazil, 10 years since the Paris agreement, with countries having to have submitted their new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals, and with what could include a focus on the indigenous and the local, with the BRICS block being influential in the background, and the USA having a reduced international role?

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## News and gifts from Friends - thank you everyone

### COP 29

[UN Newsletter](#) (thank you Gray), and [Chatham House podcast](#) (thank you Jillian).

Frustrated Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty supporters' [open letter](#) to world leaders seeking *a stop to the expansion of fossil fuels, a fair and equitable phase out of existing fossil fuel production and a financed transition to clean energy* (thank you Anne and Alistair).

Read [Pacific Church leaders' opinion](#) or, for enthusiasts, a [major Pacific adaptation study](#)

### Not COP 29

[Deforestation](#) continues - thank you Jonathan. And, Save Our Springs is saving our springs – see their [petition submission](#). Waimate [Waste-to-Energy incinerator](#) petition – thank you Joel.

### Watch Aotearoa NZ presentations

[Offshore Mitigation](#) (Our Climate Declaration); James Renwick's [Fabian Society presentation](#); and , Katherine Trebeck - [An Alternative Economic Narrative](#) (political economist, author and advocate for economic system change, and founder of the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance).

### Last thought

Kererū are very important to Tūhoe people (thank you Niwa). We stared at this magnificent creature. Was it staring at us?

My knowledge is poor, but I think if you want to say 'I'm proud of you' you say ' kei te tino poho kererū au kia koe'. It's like saying 'I'm very proud of you (like the puffed-up chest of the kererū)'. (Thank you [Stacey Morrison](#)).

Ten tips for attracting native birds are [here](#).

I hope this was not too dull. See you soon.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou

Philippa



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