



MEDIA RELEASE

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Strong Support for Renewables

Today the Productivity Commission released its much anticipated Low-emissions Economy Report.

One of the three key shifts recommended is we stop burning fossil fuels and switch to using electricity and other low-emission energy sources.

The Report highlights that significant changes will be required including a comprehensive and durable climate change framework, reform of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), a focus on innovation and a suite of other policy reforms.

“The Productivity Commission has recognised the important role of renewable electricity generation in transitioning to a low-emissions economy” said Grenville Gaskell, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Wind Energy Association.

“The Report contains a number of recommendations to support the development of renewables which the Association has been calling for. In particular changes to the ETS and addressing the shortcomings of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation.

“The National Policy Statement was developed to recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation but has not been effective in meeting its objective. The Commission’s recommendation that it should be revised as a matter of priority is welcome as is the review of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission. The Commission’s further recommendation for a new National Environmental Standard which sets the conditions for development is a real plus particularly for smaller scale renewable developments.

“New Zealand has a recognised world leading wind resource and the industry looks forward to supporting New Zealand’s low-emissions transition while continuing to grow income and wellbeing.”

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For comment, please contact Grenville Gaskell on 027 224 1049.

New Zealand Wind Energy Association

Office: 114 The Terrace, PO Box 553, Wellington NZ

Phone: +64 4 499 5046

Website: www.windenergy.org.nz

Email: info@windenergy.org.nz