



Media release

8 December 2022

'Angry food' deliver biofuels petition to Minister

A group dressed as 'angry food' delivered a 3,000 strong petition to Minister of Energy and Resources Megan Woods today, calling on the Minister to drop the Biofuels Obligation Bill.

Spokes-shrewsbury from Don't Burn Our Future Jake Roos said:

"Let's be clear: sustainable biofuel doesn't exist in any significant quantities and the government's policy won't change that. Instead, this bill will put food in our fuel tanks, whether we like it or not. Biofuels are made from staples like wheat, sugar, maize and vegetable oil - great for making bread, biscuits and cakes.

"All the sustainability criteria and certifications in the world can't stop this policy going wrong. The legislation from the EU that the government's bill is based on has had horrific effects, clearing rainforests the size of the Netherlands and tripling carbon emissions compared to doing nothing¹.

"Because fuel and food supply chains stretch around the planet, biofuels fraud is easy to get away with and, thanks to legal obligations on fuel companies to deliver biofuels or face punitive fines, it's profitable to the fraudsters. The Environmental Protection Agency down here in little old Aotearoa - who the government wants to task with policing biofuels - won't be able to do a thing about it.

"That's why we're dressing up and stating the obvious: Don't burn food. The 3,000+ people who have signed our petition agree - the biofuels obligation is the worst kind of greenwash and the government should drop it. The billions the policy would force New Zealanders to spend on biofuels is better spent on climate solutions that actually work, like public and active transport, electric vehicles and wind and solar energy to power them."

Among the signatories are well known not-for-profits Greenpeace Aotearoa and Oxfam Aotearoa.

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<https://www.transportenvironment.org/discover/10-years-of-eu-fuels-policy-increased-eus-reliance-on-unsustainable-biofuels/>



Don't Burn Our Future Supporters gather to make their point. Pictured: L to R: Conrad Coom, Jonathan Roos, Jake Roos, Gareth Scurr, Jackie Norman, Jean Fleming and Linda Hill.

Background

Don't Burn Our Future is a campaign of Low Carbon Kāpiti Inc, a community-based not-for-profit organisation advocating for real local solutions to the climate crisis.

The Sustainable Biofuels Obligation Bill has had its first reading and the Environment Select Committee are taking public submissions on it up until 12 January 2023. The Government plans for the legal obligation on fuel suppliers to blend a proportion of biofuel into all petrol and diesel sold in NZ to start from 1 April 2024. As well as having negative environmental effects, this will increase the cost of both food and fuel.

ENDS

For more information, contact Jake Roos jake.roos@gmail.com 022 6871980

Website:<https://lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz/dont-burn-our-future-stop-the-nz-biofuels-obligation/>

Petition:<https://community.greenpeace.org.nz/petitions/don-t-burn-our-future-stop-the-nz-biofuels-obligation>

Draft bill:

<https://legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2022/0182/latest/whole.html#LMS774791>