



Media release

8 February 2023

Green groups' enormous relief that Biofuels Obligation has been dropped

Environment and global justice groups responded with a 'sigh of relief' over the announcement that the Sustainable Biofuels Obligation Bill has been dropped by the Government today.

Don't Burn Our Future Spokesperson Jake Roos said:

"We campaigned hard for months, and we're both thrilled and relieved to have won. As we told the Environment Select Committee last week, this bill would have been all pain - in the form of increased fuel and food prices and biodiversity loss - and no gain to helping the climate crisis at all. In fact, it would have made it worse.

"The evidence from overseas tells us that such obligations cause emissions to increase through tropical deforestation triggered by the extra demand for arable land, because biofuels are made from food crops like palm oil and soy.

"The policy would have forced New Zealanders to spend billions burning food, boosting fossil fuel companies' profits, while delaying real climate action, like more public and active transport, electric vehicles and wind and solar energy to power them. Now is the time to increase the focus on workable measures like these."

Nicky Henry, Climate Justice Lead at Oxfam Aotearoa said:

"Oxfam is delighted that the government listened to the advice and scientific evidence that biofuels mandates are harmful as they take food and land away from people.

"There is no doubt that this is a win. We know that there are better ways we can reduce emissions and we look forward to seeing the government step up in other

areas. In particular, Oxfam calls the government to invest in better public transport, electric cars, and to price agriculture emissions properly.”

Greenpeace Aotearoa has supported the campaign, hosting the 3000-strong [petition](#) on its community platform and signing on to the submission.

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Notes:

The bill was before the Environment Select Committee who heard oral submissions about it on 1 February. Citizen-powered environmental and global justice groups including Don't Burn Our Future, Oxfam Aotearoa, 350.org, Environment and Conservation Organisations Aotearoa, Climate Justice Taranaki, the National Women's Council and the Vegan Society opposed this bill in their submissions. Fossil fuel companies including BP, Mobil and Gull were supportive of it.



Don't Burn Our Future Supporters gather to make their point when presenting their petition to government last December. 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 had its first reading and the Environment Select Committee took public submissions. The Government plans were for a 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.

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>