

Climate Action Now for a Sustainable Future

Save the Children NZ calls for urgent climate action now for a sustainable future.

To achieve this, we can for a continued commitment to:

- 1 Children and young people to be at the centre of political action to mitigate climate change and implement adaptations in the face of the climate crisis.
- 2 Children to be recognised as a key stakeholder group and explicitly included in legislation, policy and provision related to climate change and emergency management.
- 3 A government led platform where children can share their concerns and contribute their views to policy development, and be fully informed about climate change and how government is responding.
- 4 Funding initiatives that limit emissions such as investing in affordable safe, reliable green public transport, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy sources.
- 5 A just transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources that includes and supports all whānau on low incomes.
- 6 Reduction in pollution and waste, including an immediate reduction of single use plastics and a focus on refuse and reuse.

Every child deserves the **right** to a positive and sustainable future.



Save the Children

'There is no Planet B!'

The Climate Crisis is a Children's Rights Crisis

Our children and young people are at the forefront of calling for climate action. In 2019 more 170,000 children marched in Aotearoa to call for political action on the climate crisis.

In July this year around 200 children aged 6 to 22 years shared their concerns and calls for climate action. These messages were presented to political representatives from the Greens, Labour and National parties and can be found via [Messages in a Bottle](#).

General Comment 26 on Children's Rights and Environment¹ (GC 26), emphasises the urgent need to address the adverse effects of environmental degradation, with a special focus on climate change, on the enjoyment of children's rights, and clarifies the obligations of States to address environmental harm and climate change. GC 26 was inspired by the efforts of children to bring attention to the climate crisis, the impact on their future, and the need for urgent action now.

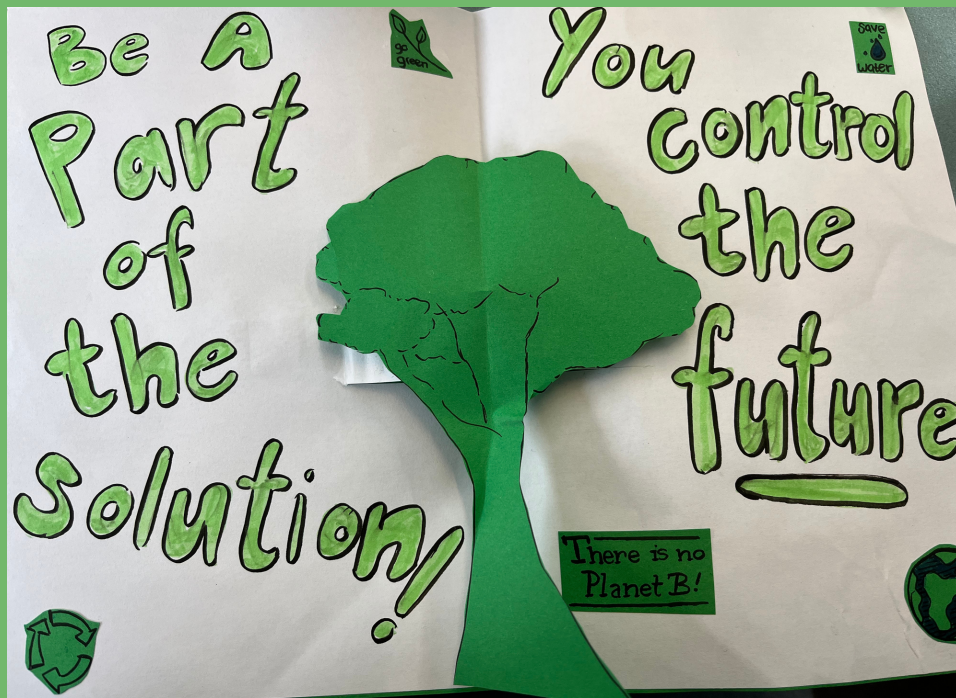


Image by student at Selwyn College

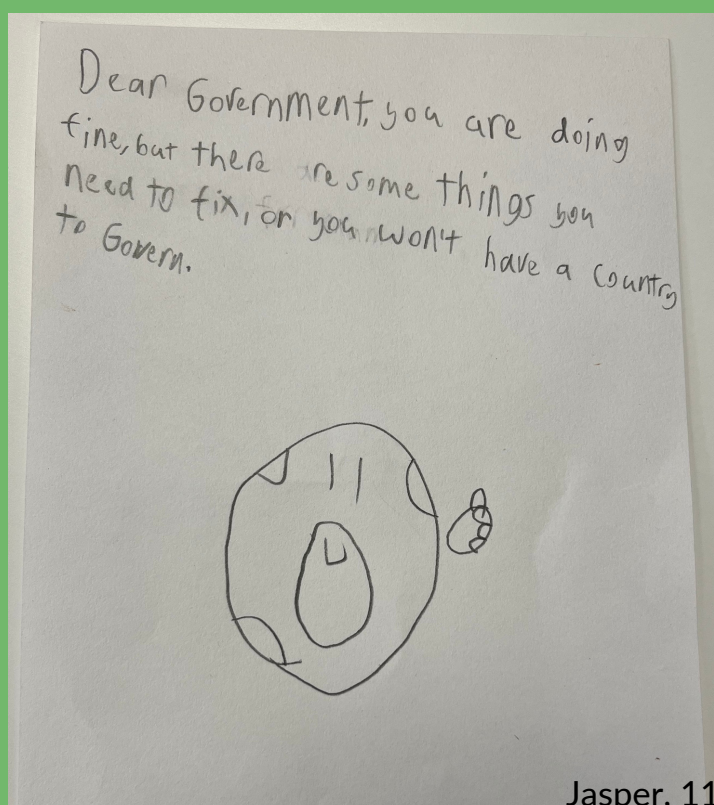
The Climate Crisis is here.

Children in Aotearoa are already being impacted by climate crisis, and our Pacific neighbours are on the very frontlines and also feeling significant impacts. Climate change is having a huge impact in the Pacific, affecting all sectors, islands, demographics, and undermining economic prosperity and human rights.

While Cyclone Gabrielle and flooding events destroyed homes and livelihoods in New Zealand, Pacific countries such as Vanuatu were decimated by back to back to cyclones. Here in New Zealand, we have not yet recovered, and neither has Vanuatu.

Those with the least resources are more acutely affected. Many families are unable to afford insurance or are underinsured. Those on low incomes struggle to replace lost belongings or to move to areas less at risk of climate change impacts. After the initial response to climate related disaster, people are often left to struggle to put their lives back together.

Having well-resourced and funded systems that support people during, immediately and in the rebuild of their lives after a climate emergency is crucial.



The Global Climate Crisis.

Around 1 billion children, or nearly half of all children worldwide, live in countries at extreme risk of the impacts of climate change. Data on the impact of the Climate Crisis shows that children bear the greatest brunt of climate change despite contributing least to it.

Limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will reduce the additional lifetime exposure of newborns to heatwaves by 45%, droughts by 39%, river floods by 38%, crop failures by 28%, and wildfire by 10%.

We know that climate change is unequivocally driven by human action, primarily from a small number of high emitting (mostly high-income) countries and corporations and that the window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is rapidly closing.

Children most impacted by inequality and discrimination and living on the frontlines of the climate crisis will face the highest costs, deeply affecting their capacity to thrive and survive.²

Sources

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights-and>
2. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/generation-hope-2-4-billion-reasons-to-end-the-global-climate-and-inequality-crisis/>



Our **children** have led the calls for climate action in Aotearoa. They are demanding **political action** for a healthy environment that protects people, the planet, and animals.



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