

Policy Remit number 7: Received from Greater Wellington Regional Council

Policy Remit – Title

Fossil fuel divestment

Policy Remit – Recommendation

That NZNO That NZNO supports and participates in the fossil fuel divestment campaign.

Rationale:

On 3 June, NZNO made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment on New Zealand's Post 2020 Climate Change Target (1).

Our submission made the following points:

"14. As nurses we emphasise the importance of evidence-based decision making.

15. The scientific evidence is clear that climate change is occurring as a result of the emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases from human activity (IPCC, 2014).

16. The evidence is also clear that climate change is having, and will bring further, negative impacts on the health of human populations. The premier international health agency, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is warning climate change is the greatest threat to human health this century."

It concluded:

"28. We believe that an ambitious climate action and emissions reduction is the best way to protect the health of the Aotearoa New Zealand population and the prospects for our PIC neighbours."

One week after NZNO made this submission, the Royal Australasia College of Physicians (representing 21,000 doctors in Australia and New Zealand) announced that it was divesting from fossil fuels (2).

"I am pleased to announce the Board has agreed to divest investments that have been identified as being directly and materially involved in fossil fuel activities," said RACP President Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley.

"Since the RACP is a health organisation with an objective of improving the health of our population, divestment is an important action that leads to reduced carbon outputs and achievement of our health objective i.e. to ensure better health outcomes for our patients into the future." (3)

We believe that NZNO should also walk the talk and commit to an ethical investment policy which divests our funds from the fossil fuel industry, as part of a wider commitment to the fossil fuel divestment campaign (4).

(1) http://www.nzno.org.nz/Portals/0/Files/Documents/Activities/Submissions/3_2015-06%20MFE%202020%20Climate%20Change_NZNO.pdf

(2) RACP divests from fossil fuels, <http://www.racp.org.nz/download.cfm?DownloadFile=DB420CF0-9282-9F2E-C64C6E9F6F1D89C9>

(3) 'Royal Australasian College of Physicians divesting from fossil fuels', <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/latest/royal-australasian-college-of-physicians-divesting-from-fossil-fuels/story-e6frg90f-1227382883712>

(4) Fossil Free NZ, <http://qofossilfree.org/nz/>