

My name is Jessica Johannesson and I'm a resident of Widcombe. I'm here to urge BANES council to declare a climate emergency, and to make reduction of carbon emissions the top priority of any budget negotiations, with the aim to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. This ambition needs to underline any local policy, and it is our duty as residents, and yours as councillors, to understand why this is so.

Why 2030 – and not 2050? Along with many others, I woke up to the urgency of the current climate crisis in light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report of October 2018. Prepared by 91 authors from 40 countries, this report does not use emotive language, it does not make apocalyptic predictions, but it presents scientific data, giving specific summaries for policy makers. That is you, and I urge you to read it, as a matter of civic duty.

It outlines the risks of going beyond 1.5C warming compared to pre-industrial levels. There is no need for emotive language, with facts such as the following: *With 1.5°C of global warming, one sea ice-free Arctic summer is projected per century. This likelihood is increased to at least one per decade with 2°C global warming.* For details on why this is terrifying, I refer you to the science of feedback loops. Dark water absorbs more heat. The report concludes that at the current rate – not taking feedback loops into account- we are likely to reach 1.5C between the years 2030 and 2052.

For the purpose of your present work, one fact is essential: postponing net zero to the seemingly more feasible 2050, is in terms of ours and your responsibility, the same as business as usual, which in reality means decanting your duty onto the young people who went on strike this Friday past. It is not only morally abhorrent but also unnecessary, because 2030 is not unrealistic or unfeasible, and there are many of use who are more than happy to hand over suggestions on how to make this happen.

In the months to come, you will hear about the concerns of young people as well as their parents, who have a personal stake in a world beyond a few decades. According to the science, my husband and I, who do not have children, could well live out our natural lives without suffering too much from the results of climate change. We don't know, and it is of no consequence. I'm not urging you to do better because you have personal stakes in the future, but because it is your duty as civil servants to do the right thing, especially when the facts are telling you that it is possible.