

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Associate Minister of Finance



2 February 2022

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is my pleasure to introduce the Southland Just Transition work plan, the outcome of a year's work by Iwi, local leaders and officials from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

The just transition is an opportunity to build a fairer, more sustainable, more resilient local economy. This work plan sets out the next steps to deliver on this ambition.

I am excited to see this plan made public, eighteen months on from the initial closure announcement at the New Zealand Aluminium Smelter. At the time, the Government committed to delivering a just transition for workers and the community – the release of this document is an important milestone in fulfilling this promise.

It is excellent to see the community coming together to plan their response to the closure. Having a solid plan in place will give Southlanders the certainty about the region's future they deserve, regardless of the actions of one large employer.

I would have liked to introduce this document and the next step in the just transition process, with you in person. The move to Red settings in the COVID Protection Framework means we need to put the health and safety of the community first by minimising large gatherings, reducing opportunities for the virus to spread.

Despite the move to Red, the work set out in this document continues. Lead organisations are already working on the actions that sit under the individual work streams set out in the plan. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this work when the Southland Just Transition Enduring Oversight Group reports back to the government later in the year.

A digital copy of this document is available at www.southlandjusttransition.nz. You'll also find ongoing updates and more details on how you can get involved, at this address.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Woods'.

Hon Dr Megan Woods

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