

Questions and Answers

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council

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2.1 Mayoral Travel to Canberra, Australia

With the borders reopening there is now the potential once again for international travel on official Council business. I note that it is budgeted to offset carbon emissions for Mayor Foster's proposed travel to Canberra. Does Council have a policy capping or limiting the amount of air travel each year for staff and elected members on council business? Do we have different approaches to domestic vs international air travel, given that there are no lower carbon alternatives to international air travel at present?

Targets for capping air travel for staff and elected members will be considered as part of the Council's Emissions Reduction Plan which will be developed over the 2022/23 financial year.

Current policy doesn't limit air travel with a cap, although all travel needs to be appropriate, justifiable, and tied to achieving Council objectives. International travel by officers requires CEO approval. Offsets are required for international travel as these emissions are not covered by either domestic or international emissions trading legislation (noting that domestic travel in NZ or the EU has the emissions cost included in the fuel cost for the flight via their respective emissions trading schemes).