



Tiakina te Taiao Newsletter -July 2024

From NZ Tertiary Education Union <jared.commerer@teu.ac.nz>

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To Jared Commerer <jared.commerer@teu.ac.nz>

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Kia ora Tiakina te Taiao | TEU Climate Action Network,

With the release of the government's [climate strategy](#) and consultation on the [second emissions reduction plan](#) getting underway, there is a lot to consider as we continue to navigate the implications of climate change. Disappointingly, neither the strategy nor the plan makes any allusion to the crucial role that tertiary education must play if we are to inform, mitigate, and meet targets surrounding the challenges of climate change.

As such, harnessing the energy and expertise of our members as we continue the work of Tiakina te Taiao is becoming increasingly important.

We look forward to connecting with you all on Wednesday 24 July, 1:00pm to work through the below agenda items:

1. We will be joined by Ross Teppett from CTU to discuss the climate-specific elements of their [Reimagining Aotearoa Together](#) campaign, including preparation for a climate round-table event scheduled for September
2. TEU Assistant National Secretary—Industrial, Daniel Benson-Guiiu, will join us to discuss the integration of climate clauses into TEU's National Industrial Strategy

3. We will also discuss and get your feedback on our draft Workplan 2024-2025, including proposed 'climate delegate' roles

EXPLAINER: TEU NETWORKS

Under the new TEU Constitution, the formation, functions, and voting rights of our National Networks have been formalised.

TEU National Networks are established to represent national groups of TEU members who share either an identity or an interest in a specific issue. Our climate action network, Tiakina te Taiao, is an example of an issue-based network; our Rainbow | Te Kahukura network is one of our identity-based networks. To learn more about all of our current National Networks, see the [TEU website](#).

TEU National Networks are member-led entities. This means members are able to elect an Advisory Group for the network, contribute to developing the network's Workplan, and get involved in carrying out the three primary functions of the network:

1. ensure matters raised by constituent members are represented to National Conference and Council;
2. work with the paid staff of the union to address matters affecting constituent members; and
3. assist in responding to government policy and legislative changes, as well as institutional policy changes, that affect the constituency of the National Network.

The current Tiakina te Taiao Advisory Group is comprised of the following members – they will lead the work of Tiakina te Taiao until the next Advisory Group is elected in early 2026.

- **Alby Fitisemanu** is a TEU Council member and works as a Senior Lecturer at MIT
- **Breeze Robertson** is based the University of Canterbury and works as a Senior Communications Advisor
- **Davina Hunt** is a researcher at Rangahau Mātauranga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Council of Education Research and has advised on a range of sustainability strategy and advisory groups, including the University of Otago's climate change research network, He Kaupapa Hononga
- **Hone Sadler** (Ngāpuhi, Ngati Moerewa) is TEU kaumātua

- **Jennifer Frost** is an Associate Professor in the History department at the University of Auckland
- **Jenny Ritchie** is based at Victoria University of Wellington in the Education department
- **Noel Zeng** is a Web Developer in the Bioengineering Institute at the University of Auckland
- **Owen Ormsby** is a lecturer at Unitec
- **Rachel Bolstad** is Senior Researcher at Rangahau Mātauranga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Council of Education Research and a TEU Council member. She has been a key member of Tiakina te Taiao since its establishment.

The TEU staff support for Tiakina te Taiao is TEU Research and Policy Officer, Jared Commerer – feel free to [get in touch](#) with questions and ideas for the network.

If you have colleagues that are interested in joining Tiakina te Taiao, please direct them to the [sign-up form](#).

ROUND-UP: SUBMISSION ON THE FAST-TRACK APPROVALS BILL

Earlier in the year, [TEU submitted](#) on the Fast-track Approvals Bill. To add strength to our written submission, Tiakina te Taiao members Rachel Bolstad and Jenny Ritchie presented an oral submission on June 11.

Jenny and Rachel spoke about the critical importance of ensuring the public's right to engagement and scrutiny over significant development decisions that may have environmental and cultural costs, concerns about the concentration of decision-making power among three Ministers, and the potential diminishment of the role of research, expertise, and evidence in informing wise decisions. They also emphasised our expectation that Te Tiriti partnerships should be enacted in decisions that affect people and the environment.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The Australian Trade Union Institute (ACTU) is running [Climate Action for Unionists](#) on Thursday 26 July, 11:30am-1:00pm (NZT). The course is only AUD\$20 and promises to “share fundamental knowledge about how the climate crisis affects workers’ wellbeing and explore how worker-led initiatives can drive better climate solutions.”
- ACTS is running [The Future of Sustainability](#), a 4-day conference dedicated to the connection between sustainability and tertiary education. The conference is being held at the University of Tasmania on 5-8

November, with a conference hub event being hosted at Victoria University and Massey University in Wellington.

- [Government releases climate strategy 'pamphlet' on day of damning oil and gas ban advice, emissions impact](#) (NZ Herald)
- [Government plans tree-planting frenzy as report shows NZ no longer on track to hit climate target](#) (NZ Herald)
- [Bringing the climate change kōrero to the marae](#) (RNZ)
- [Budget 2024: What survived and what was cut from Climate Emergency Response Fund](#) (RNZ)

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