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Professor James Hansen  
C/ Dan Galpern  
By email: dan.galpern@gmail.com

## Thomson v Minister of Climate Change Issues

1. We wanted to write personally to record formally our appreciation for your evidence in the Sarah Thomson case.
2. This case was the first direct challenge in the New Zealand courts to the New Zealand government's climate change policy. It attracted a great deal of public, judicial and political attention. In a packed courtroom over several days, the High Court was for the first time taken through the science of climate change, and your evidence was a central part of educating the judge on the seriousness of the problem.
3. We have now received a decision from Justice Mallon. Although there are parts of the decision which fall short of what we had hoped, there are many gains, some of which will be of real value in holding our newly elected Government to account on climate change policy settings. This includes a finding that the setting of targets by the Government is judicially reviewable by the courts and a specific finding that New Zealand's 2050 target was wrongly set.
4. The Judge ultimately decided it was not necessary to grant relief, but this was only because a new Government was formed in the days before the decision, in which the leader of the Green Party, James Shaw, was made Minister of Climate Change Issues, and committed New Zealand to a new 2050 target (carbon neutrality). The Judge's decision in Sarah's case means that the Minister will now be proceeding knowing that as a matter of law, his decisions are now subject to review by the High Court.
5. We appreciate how many demands there are on your time and accordingly it is with real pleasure that we can report that your assistance and time in this case made a meaningful contribution to the result which will give rise to legal and political opportunities to push for further progress.

Yours sincerely



Davey Salmon / Michael Heard  
**Partner / Partner**