



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Petitions Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana

54th Parliament

April 2026

Petition of Zane Allan: Ban Geoengineering and Weather Modification in New Zealand

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Greg O'Connor, Chairperson

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Petition of Zane Allan

Recommendation

The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Zane Allan—Ban Geoengineering and Weather Modification in New Zealand—and recommends that the House take note of its report.

Request regarding geoengineering and weather modification

This petition was signed by 3,670 people. It was presented to the House by Tim Costley on 1 July 2024, and requests:

That the House of Representatives legislate to prohibit any present and future geoengineering and weather modification practices in New Zealand's airspace and atmosphere from ground level to outer space.

Comments from the petitioner

The petitioner believes that New Zealanders are at risk of harm from geoengineering and weather modification. Mr Allan provided a submission that defines geoengineering as large-scale manipulation of processes that control Earth's climate to achieve specific outcomes. It defines weather modification as the alteration of atmospheric conditions by human activities to change weather patterns.

Mr Allan told us that government agencies have consistently denied the existence of geoengineering projects. He claims that there has been an increase in geoengineering activities worldwide, and he is concerned that a lack of regulatory controls may allow geoengineering activities to be conducted in New Zealand without the public's knowledge.

In his written submission, the petitioner requests that a parliamentary select committee be established to:

- assess the legitimacy and seriousness of geoengineering and weather modification concerns raised by New Zealand citizens
- require certain government agencies to disclose all information they hold relating to geoengineering and weather modification in New Zealand
- conduct an inquiry into geoengineering activities in New Zealand, and determine whether and how they should be regulated
- conduct an audit of all government departments, systems, technologies, and data relating to geoengineering and weather modification.

Geoengineering and weather modification

The number of people concerned about weather modification or geoengineering is increasing worldwide. We understand that these concerns relate to a theory about chemtrails, which is widely regarded to be a conspiracy theory. Proponents of that theory suggest that contrails, white cloudy streaks in the sky behind high-altitude aircraft, are in fact

chemtrails, caused by the Government or another entity covertly spraying chemicals from aircraft for some nefarious purpose. Although white streaks in the sky are widely understood to be no more than aircraft contrails—vapour trails of condensed water—the chemtrail theory has evolved into a broader concern about geoengineering and weather modification.¹

Comments from Professor Marc Wilson

Marc Wilson is a professor in the School of Psychology at Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington who has conducted research on New Zealanders' beliefs about conspiracy theories. We invited him to provide a submission on the origins of the chemtrail conspiracy theory, and its relationship with geoengineering and weather modification.

Professor Wilson told us that people who believe in chemtrails may do so because they genuinely believe there is evidence for the theory. They may believe this based on personal observations, such as the fact that not all aircraft leave contrails. Historical events that appear to support the theory may also be used as evidence. For example, the United States Government released fluorescent chemicals over populated areas in the 1950s to investigate the hypothetical dispersal of biological warfare agents.

Even when supposed evidence for a conspiracy theory is debunked, it is difficult to change the views of those who believe in it. Professor Wilson noted that counterclaims about conspiracy theories may be seen as part of the conspiracy. For that reason, he expects that those who believe in the chemtrail conspiracy will dismiss his submission.

Professor Wilson referred us to research about the prevalence of the chemtrail conspiracy theory. One study shows that around 7 percent of New Zealanders believe in it.²

Our response to the petition

We appreciate that the petitioner is passionate about the matters raised in his petition. It was interesting to learn about the origins of this theory, and we thank Professor Marc Wilson for his insight.

We do not believe that there is sufficient evidence to show that geoengineering and weather modification are being undertaken covertly in New Zealand. For that reason, we do not consider the establishment of a select committee or the introduction of a regulatory system to be a good use of Parliament's time. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

¹ Holly Jean Buck, Understanding and addressing "chemtrails", June 2025.

² Matt Williams, John Kerr, and Mathew Marques; Out of the rabbit hole: New research shows people can change their minds about conspiracy theories; February 2024.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The petition was signed by 3,670 people on the Parliament website. It was presented to the House by Tim Costley on 1 July 2024 and referred to us that day. We met between 20 February 2025 and 30 April 2026 to consider it. We received written submissions from the petitioner and Professor Marc Wilson and heard oral evidence from the petitioner. We received advice from the Parliamentary Library.

Committee members

Greg O'Connor (Chairperson)

Kahurangi Carter (until 11 February 2026)

Greg Fleming

Paulo Garcia

Celia Wade-Brown (from 11 February 2026)

Teanau Tuiono participated in some of our work on this petition.

Related resources

The documents we received as evidence and advice in relation to this petition are available on the [Parliament website](#).

A recording of our hearing can be accessed online on the [Parliament website](#).