inisters snubbed methane advice

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methane reduction targets the Government should adopt CONFLICTING advice on

is being blamed by Climate
Change Minister James Shaw on
differences over how to restrict
global warming to less than 1.5C.
It has emerged Shaw ignored
advice from Ministry for Primary
Industries officials, the Climate
Change Executives Board and the Environment Simon Upton who advocated for 2050 methane reduction targets of between 10% and 35% Parliamentary Commissioner for

The variation is dependent on

25% be included in the proposed Zero Carbon Bill but Shaw chose a range of 24% to 47% to apply from 2030 to 2050. the global response.
MPI recommended a cut of

Government for its chosen target, saying it is beyond what scientists say is needed for New Zealand to meet its 1.5C Paris Agreement Farmers criticised the In a joint statement Beef + Lamb, DairyNZ and Federated

They labelled it purely a political decision made in Cabinet, based on selective references from the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

B+LNZ chief executive Sam McIvor says the decision also ignores the IPCC's caveat that global targets should not be imposed on individual countries.

"The combined effect of the

excessive methane targets and net zero target for nitrous oxide, which go beyond the IPCC's advice for this gas, means that NZ is effectively aiming to go below 1.5C and, by doing so, letting other countries off the hook," McIvor

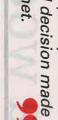
"The upper targets that they suggested do not meet that 1.5C limit that the IPCC says we need to stay within to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change.

"And maintaining biological methane at levels that contribute no additional warming would also



TOO MUCH: By setting excessive emissions reduction targets New Zealand is letting other countries off the hook, Beef + Lamb chief executive Sam McIvor says.

It's purely a political decision made in Cabinet.



Federated Farmers B+LNZ, DairyNZ,

Shaw said the Zero Carbon Bill includes a 2024 review of the 2030-2050 methane target range to take account of progress on emissions reductions along with not keep the world within that 1.5C threshold."

economic and other factors.

DairyNZ chief executive Tim

Mackle says the chosen target
range is proof agriculture is being

asked to do more than is required than what is being asked of other

In a briefing paper to Shaw last November released under the Official Information Act, MPI recommended a 2050 target of a 25% reduction in methane below limit global warming to below 1.5C. 2016 levels, consistent with the objectives of the Paris Accord to

and can be achieved with known technology.
"The Paris Agreement does not The paper says it is also realistic nd can be achieved with known

specify that emissions of biogenic methane need to be offset to zero," Mackle said.

The officials recommend it be regularly reviewed by the Climate Commission.

The briefing paper reveals the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, a committee of heads of Government departments, suggested a potential methane reduction range for 2050 of 22-35% below 2016 levels, saying it is also consistent with temperature control objectives of the Paris

MPI says that target range is also achievable with existing

officials note the IPCC says methane emissions need to fall by between 24% and 47% from 2010 levels by 2050 then stabilise to restrict warming to less than

But the IPCC also noted there is no requirement for methane and nitrous oxide to reach zero

and MPI says a 25% target would achieve the IPCC's goals.

"Based on the range above we recommend that if a target for biological emissions is set in the

Climate Change Bill that the target be 25% below 2016 levels by 2050."

"We consider that this would be consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to below 1.5C and would represent a realistic emissions reduction that can be achieved with currently known technologies and avoiding significant land use change."

change."
MPI said reductions above the 22% to 35% range are possible only if there is a significant breakthrough in mitigation technology or land use changes from pastoral agriculture.