Is the tourism sector meeting its obligations...

A provocation ... or science check

Professor David G Simmons
Chair EarthCheck Research Institute
Lincoln University,
New Zealand
Where to focus

EarthCheck  the planet deserves more than half measures™
We know many lead indicators because of detailed measurements:

- **Tourist businesses**
  - Business example (e.g., EC data base)
  - Water EC white paper
- **Destination**: Kaikoura example
- **Tourist Behaviour (Becken (Simmons) studies)** (basic NZ ratios)

- **International travel**

*EarthCheck* the planet deserves more than half measures™
Addiction to oil! : Energy use in travel to and within NZ

91% of the emissions from tourism in NZ arise from transport
> 70% international, 21% (69% of internal emissions) internal distribution

International travel (Aviation)

Author’s personal note:

“Growth will slow down for all three scenarios

• (low mitigation, essentially no price on carbon but mounting climate impacts),
• high mitigation (increasing price on carbon and some climate damage), and
• extreme mitigation (very very high price on carbon, and relatively controlled climate impacts)... The best for the long term is actually to engage in mitigation”

Becken and Carmignani (2019) *Are the current expectations for growing air travel demand realistic?* Annals of Tourism Research
Obligations — are we meeting ours?

• To sustainability
  > best expressed in UN SDGs
  > raise serious questions of just development and climate equity

• To a carbon constrained economy
  > tourism “wine glass” conversations
  > confusion about net verses gross measures

• To measure AND manage our key inputs AND outputs
  > energy, water, waste, chemicals (legal and social)
  > Where are our global tourism scientists!

EarthCheck the planet deserves more than half measures™
In sum: Tourism is NOT doing its bit

• Conversations and science are isolated from other productive sectors and the SDGs
  • NZ tourism more emissions intensive than agriculture ($GHC(mt) /$mn Value Add)

• Greater than its proportional share of G GDP
  • (5% emissions, 3.9% G GDP)

• Tourist behaviour is turning against us – individuals (rather than governments) are seeking out their own solutions

The situation is urgent, we must measure to manage, AND engage with the new environmental paradigm

EarthCheck the planet deserves more than half measures™