**For Immediate Release**

**Māori Climate Commissioner: The Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) are not the future.**

Māori Climate Commissioner, Donna Awatere Huata, says the new advertising campaign starting tonight (Monday) by the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) to convince New Zealander's to begin future oil exploration again is nothing more than propaganda for Big Oil.

"One of the few bold measures this Government has done to combat climate change, banning future oil exploration, is being attacked by Big Oil who are desperate to hide the fact they are now a sunset industry".

"The planet simply does not have the luxury to continue oil exploration, the sooner we divest into sustainable forms of energy, the better. Unfortunately for PEPANZ they are simply no longer part of the equation to save the planet from climate change".

"Pretending to believe we can continue using oil in the future is a dangerous delusion we can not afford. You don't treat lung cancer by continuing to purchase packets of cigarettes for future use".

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