



Former Treasury chief economist and now head of the School of Government, Girol Karacaoglu, says New Zealand is suffering from “boiling frog syndrome.” And like that frog, sinking in a tranquil stupor, Aotearoa might be unresistingly boiled to death if we don’t wake up to the damage we are causing by our current way of life.

Dr Karacaoglu says Covid 19 was our boiling water moment: “we saw it, we felt it, and we jumped out – brilliantly executed – and, to the point, almost unanimously supported”.

But the ongoing damage our lifestyle is doing – through increasing poverty and inequality, environmental degradation and stresses on our social fabric and democracy - will end in disaster if we don’t jump out, soon.

What do we need to do – and what kinds of public policies do we need in support – to stop the boil up, so that we and future generations can continue to live the lives we wish to live?