

# Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

## Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal

information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

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### Objectives for the contribution

- **1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:**
  - **it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences**
  - **costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately**
  - **it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.**

- **Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?**

	Yes
no	No

- **I think that the objectives should be**
- **To guide New Zealand as quickly as possible to having zero emissions with a target date for zero emissions of 2050 at the latest.**

- That our contribution BE fair, ambitious and enough to make a significant difference quickly to ensure that carbon emissions peak within the next year and then reduce annually after that.
- To ensure that the cost of doing nothing is considered within decision making and that any costs of action are fairly distributed and do not impact most on poor or vulnerable households.
- **1b. What is most important to you?**
- That the threat of climate change is taken seriously and that real and meaningful action is taken immediately.
- That any economic impact of the action in terms of standard of living is borne predominantly by those who are the largest benefitters of and culprits / causers of climate change (big business and rich people who are bigger consumers).
- That any costing of the impact of targets includes costing for doing nothing (as ignoring climate change or failing to take enough action will have a huge cost to global society).
- That NZ take as much action as it possibly can regardless of what other nations do. Lead rather than follow! NZ has a proud history of leading on important issues despite its small size (Women's Suffrage, Nuclear Free, Anti-apartheid) and should rise to these current challenges.
- If action on climate change does impact on the competitiveness of NZ businesses then tough. Climate change will impact negatively on everybody including NZ businesses so get real about making changes to tackle the problem.
- It is ridiculous to be undertaking an in depth consultation on climate change which includes acknowledgement of and the spelling out of the causes and potential impacts of climate change while at the same time the government is giving out permits for Deep Sea Oil exploration. We need to stop burning fossil fuels and we certainly need to stop digging them up. Leave the oil in the ground. Revoke all deep sea oil permits now.

## What would be a fair contribution for New Zealand?

- **2. What do you think the nature of New Zealand's emissions and economy means for the level of target that we set?**
- I think the reality of climate change means we need to set the highest targets that we can. We can't pick and choose because of our 'special' circumstances. We have a good level of renewable electricity generation but high levels of agricultural emissions. I don't believe that one good level means we can offset that against a bad level. The threat is serious and immediate and using a system of 'offsets' is not appropriate. We should do as much as we can to transition quickly to a low carbon future, not just talk about it.

- We need to get creative about agricultural systems - there are agricultural methods that can sequester carbon in the soil. These rely on building healthy alive soil so mean a transition away from agrochemicals and artificial fertilisers. NZ Govt should be promoting these different agricultural methods (see the work of Mark Shepard, Graeme Sait or Allan Savoury for examples of Restorative Agriculture).
- I fundamentally disagree that it is our low population density that results in relatively high per capita use of road transport. It is poor public transport and a road based transportation for goods that results in high per capita use of road transport. Most of our population is based in cities and most of that in Auckland. The public transport system is a disgrace and an embarrassment. There are so many things that could be done to improve it - more rail, free buses around the cities etc etc. We need to shift from subsidising car use (which we currently do through taxation and road development / maintenance because road users do not pay the full costs) to subsidising public transport for the good of all and the future. Heavy road users (haulage firms, logging trucks etc) should pay the full cost of the damage that they do and the pollution they cause. Currently they are effectively subsidised by taxpayers and ratepayers. There needs to be alternatives (rail and sea) to get those heavy trucks off the roads.
- We need to aim for a global zero carbon target by 2050 and NZ needs to demonstrate credible steps to achieve this. We need to commit to at least a 40% reduction on 1990 levels by 2030 and zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- As the world has more fossil fuels in reserve than we can afford to burn we need to immediately commit to zero fossil fuel exploration which means immediately revoking all of the permits for offshore oil exploration around NZ.

## How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

- **What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**
- The reality is that everyone will have to change lifestyles to transition to a low carbon economy. It is imperative though that the largest impact be experienced by businesses and corporations and their rich shareholders and executives who have gained most from an economic system which has disregarded environmental constraints and risked the wellbeing and future of everyone on the planet. NZ's wealth is not evenly distributed so it is disingenuous to imply that costs of action on climate change should be evenly distributed. Support must be given to the most vulnerable households to ensure that essential needs are met (food, shelter, health care etc) during and after the transition period.

- Any decision about cost levels needs to consider the cost of doing nothing. People may think they can't afford to do something but the reality is we can't afford to do nothing. Businesses in particular need to experience the full cost of their actions with a polluter pays environment.
- Of the opportunities for New Zealand to reduce its emissions (as outlined on page 15 of the discussion document), which do you think are the most likely to occur, or be most important for New Zealand?
- We need to take action to reduce emissions from transport - better public transport, a shift from road haulage to rail or sea etc.
- Agricultural emissions to be reduced through agricultural diversification and also through Regenerative or Restorative agricultural systems that do not rely on brought in, fossil fuel based products and build the life of soil as part of a strategy for carbon sequestration. A low carbon future will not include producing huge amounts of food for the export market. Part of transitioning to a low carbon future involves shifting from an export based economy to one which meets the needs of local markets.

## Summary

- How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
- We must act now as the risks of further delay are very high. We need a well-designed and ambitious emissions reductions policy. We need government to give clear, strong, consistent signals to spur both behaviour change and technological development. Behaviour change required is not just on an individual level. We need to shift to an economy based on truly environmentally sustainable and ethical business practices.

## Other comments

- Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
- There should be an immediate ban on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction in the next decade. All subsidies, tax-breaks and funding to fossil fuels should be phased out within the next 3 years.
- Action should include credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.
- Action taken should abide by the articles laid out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- **There needs to be a transparent decision-making process after the consultation period ends.**

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.**