Consultation on setting New Zealand’s post-2020 climate change target

Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?
The first objective is most important; a fair and ambitious contribution. I believe this is the most important because it is crucial to global efforts that each country agrees to do their part, and this should be done willingly. We will have the most success if everyone is ambitious in their targets, but not unrealistic. It is also important to consider each country's characteristics that will help or hinder its' ability to reduce emissions. Cooperation is the most important part of the global effort and I think this objective best serves this. Although the second objective is good, I believe that there will need to be some changes made to society and people need to be flexible.

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?
Given that we have a largely renewable energy source, we will obviously not be able to significantly reduce these emissions. I think that although methane is a short lived gas, it still has a dramatic effect on warming and therefore it should be targeted in NZ. I understand that we have a pretty efficient and green agricultural sector but if we can use research and technology to target these emissions (without harming economic growth significantly) I believe that will be beneficial in our contribution, but also to other countries. I think another area of particular importance is targeting transport emissions, it is very important that changes are made to encourage people to be less reliant on their car and the oil industry. All populations have grown since 1990 so I don't think we can use that as an excuse for emissions, it is just a consideration, and it will be an important factor globally in cutting emissions.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it's greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
The target of cutting 10% below 1990 levels is the most appropriate. Changes need to be made that is certain, however the burden should not be to the household taxpayer, because although we need to all bear the cost, it is most important that those who are contributing the most (within their control) have to bear the burden a bit more than others. I think there should be incentives to people for choosing more emission friendly lives. I am very supportive in research and technology development, and I think it should be continued to be funded in part by the Government. I think NZ needs to be somewhat consistent with the globe in burdens they place on people/corporations because it could have a significant effect on economic choices in this country and could have negative effects.
4. 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?
I think this objective is the most important:
A transition to a low-carbon economy leads to greater energy security and limits our vulnerability to oil price volatility, supply disruptions and potentially high future carbon prices.
This is because I think that reliance on oil will only get worse as supply decreases. It should be seen that this is an opportunity to explore and invest in new technology that will help assist industry and people to reduce their input. Incentives to aid people to be less reliant should be encouraged, particularly when it comes to private transport as it is not difficult in NZ cities to live without a car, which is where our population is concentrated.
I think all opportunities have the possibility of being developed and should be.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
I think that they have made some significant advances in the agricultural sector recently, and obviously in setting the target, consideration must be made to the fact that any new technology will take time to implement. I think global initiatives and technology should be investigated because there is success around the world to live a greener life. The contributions of other countries will be very important when we choose ours.
I think we should be ambitious and somewhat optimistic with our contribution, because we need to have faith in the investments made in research. I understand that people will be unhappy if their lives are changed dramatically so we should make a stepped transition to a low emission lifestyle. It is inherent that agriculture will have some effect on our emissions, but we still need to make efforts to reduce

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I think question 2 is poorly worded and unclear.
Climate change will affect my generation and this is our opportunity to advance positively into the future rather than look back in regret. It is not the time to delay to act.