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30 May 2015

To: Climate Change Contribution Consultation  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
WELLINGTON 6143

**Re: New Zealand's Climate Change Target**

Thank you for compiling the discussion document, which has been helpful to me to understand the many issues associated with climate change.

It is very concerning to me that global warming through mankind's industrial, agricultural, and habitation legacy (past and present) has brought about significant and increasing climate change, which will have immediate and long lasting effects on all those who inhabit this planet.

While NZ strived to put forward control measures from the Kyoto Summit, this did not have 'buy-in' from all nations, particularly the bigger polluters (China, USA, Russia, European Union), and was doomed to fail since those not participating held a competitive marketing advantage over those countries which did participate.

It is all well and good designing targets to be met in 2030; however for any future target, there has to be a buy-in from all countries in the world; but even with a majority of participating countries signed up to the new international climate change agreement, there has to be worldwide imposed penalties (e.g. financial, significant levies on exported goods) for the countries that do not participate.

I would like to see significant measures being implemented sooner than 2030 by NZ's productive sector, since procrastination by all nations since Kyoto has reduced the time available.

**Question 1-Objectives for the Contribution**

I agree with the first objective

I do not agree with the second objective. My reasoning is as follows:

For too long, big polluters to climate change in NZ have abused the environment/climate in the production of goods and services. Rather than sharing out the future costs of our contribution on society as a whole, there has to be targeted apportionment of costs proportionate to the level of past and present pollution of the climate. For example agriculture has to be levied a significant amount of the contribution due to its poor performance to date in curbing emissions. It's about time this sector started paying the true cost of its pollution, which it has regarded as a 'free good' to enable productivity.

I agree with the third objective

**Question 2-NZ's emission & economy viz. the target we set**

There has to be a global context for emissions

Big emitters need to make hugely significant reductions to cover past and present contributions to climate change

We need more urgency to address climate change measures in NZ

**Box 4 Agricultural Emissions**

-These measures are reliant on research and development giving the results; however there's no thought given to containment of agricultural emissions.

I recommend that night stalls be provided for livestock (dairy, sheep, cattle) where gases produced can be collected in the roof structure and put to use such as for heating or the production of fertilisers.

The reduction in grazing/ overnighting space can then be converted into forestry (native or exotic) to trap environmental carbon into the woody product, and so earn carbon credits.

Day time grazing out in the pasture will still produce omissions but at least their 24 hour production would be halved.

### **Question 3- What level of cost is appropriate for NZ**

In my view the contribution cost has to be levied proportionate to the amount of climate change pollution (past & present) that is produced by each productive sector.

Households should not subsidise the agriculture or industrial sector climate change contributions. It is not realistic to try and show how much the average household would bear since the proportionate levy would suggest significant inequalities between sectors of the NZ economy.

NZ needs to set a significant target reduction (to below 1990 levels) of at least 40% (since business as usual [BAU] is currently 21% above 1990 levels).

However BAU is not an acceptable strategy right now. Reductions have to be introduced much more quickly to lessen the impact on future generations.

### **Question 4-Which opportunities are relevant for NZ**

I agree with all these bullet points, although bullet points 4 & 5 are most highly relevant to NZ

The daily cost of life in NZ has to be measured and portrayed in Carbon terms in the media. e.g. for people who individually take a car to work each day instead of taking public transport, the carbon cost of what they elect to do must be shown to everyone. In my view, collective peer pressure through the media must identify unwise or selfish choice impacts on the carbon economy.

For industry there could be similar measures where truck transport is shown versus Rail in the overall cost to the carbon economy. Where significant differences arise the true impacts on carbon economy need to be portrayed in the media.

### **Question 5-How to take account of future uncertainties**

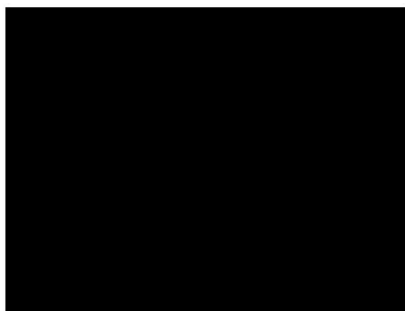
Technological change appears worth of pursuing however it is not the 'magic wand' to resolve all issues;

We need to implement change right now and embark on a publicly known carbon economy by commencing with significant reductions with the biggest polluters in NZ;

Our intended national contribution needs to:

- sit in a global context of similarly hooked up nations
- make large reductions sooner rather than later
- look to even out reductions as technology and containment measures bring out reductions in emissions
- locking up Carbon in woody vegetation must be a focus for all polluters, not just by large scale plantations, but also by making use of all available space for such purposes. Incentives by Government could assist these measures.

Yours sincerely



- I agree to my submission being published on the MfE website;
- I wish to have my name and address removed from the website if my submission is published there;
- I object to my name and address being released under the Official Information Act, for reason of protecting my personal privacy