

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Telephone

Email

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

the third - it is important that we become a low emissions world as soon as possible, and important that NZ is able to cope with this over the long term.

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?

Because of the level of our agricultural emissions and renewable energy, it is certainly harder to reduce our target. But we also pride ourselves on being 'clean and green', so should look at minimising all other sources of emissions and the processes by which they occur.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?

I'm no expert, so am not going to throw numbers around, but as much as possible without significantly disrupting lives and jobs. We should try and reduce carbon levels as much as possible - even up to 20% below 1990 levels. Whilst this cuts a larger amount off NZ households on average, with more focus on social services, this would hopefully have as little impact as possible on poor families. It all sounds a little optimistic - but greater cuts now are going to provide more benefit in the long run, despite their unpopularity.

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?

of most importance would be the third option discussing less exposure to risk surrounding energy in the future. If we can remain strong and self-sufficient in this respect, then it forms a solid base for the other opportunities outlined. Above all, these opportunities all seem interlinked anyway - with change in one area come multiple benefits.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

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NZ should take any uncertainties and costs into account, and try to manage them in the best way possible. In relation to cars and transport, which seem to be a big focus of the costs of action (and probably rightly so), we should be considering not just use of electric cars, but rather how we can decrease reliance on private vehicles overall. But the cost NZ should focus on the most is that of runaway global warming if we continue along a path of inaction, or low action. Greater than economic cost in the short term is the long term cost to our children and grandchildren's future.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.

In addition to action laid out by the government, I ask that the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC):

(i) commits to a global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050 or sooner, with annual steps outlining how to get there as quickly as possible.

(ii) places an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction within the decade. All subsidies, funding and tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry are also phased out within the decade

(iii) includes credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated, independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.

(iv) Abides by the articles laid out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi

(v) includes health, fairness, and the true costs of inaction on climate change in the assessment of costs and benefits

(vi) follows a transparent decision-making process after the consultation process ends