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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

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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?
New Zealand should take a leadership position (for New Zealand as well as the Pacific) and stimulate a low-carbon economy based around smart, sustainable solutions. Global scientific opinion continues to confirm that we must reduce emissions to keep global warming below 2°C to avoid dangerous impacts of climate change. This also means that there is an absolute cap on the total amount of carbon emissions that can be released in order to stay within this limit. To achieve this, the Royal Society of NZ stated in 2011 that emissions from industrialised countries need to be reduced by 80-95% by 2050 relative to 1990. This would mean that the shorter-term targets being negotiated in Paris in December 2015 need to be at least 40% reduction by 2030 relative to 1990 for industrialised countries.

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?
We need science-based targets that show New Zealand is making a fair contribution that reinforces its international reputation. New Zealand as a nation must be powered by 100% renewable energy with a speedy transition away from fossil fuels.

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?
Why assume greater cost will be involved? If we align our spending to a low carbon economy we will find savings and efficiencies which should see a reduction in annual household consumption through mega efficiency.

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?
A transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid cars, along with a greater focus on active modes of transport, such as cycling and walking, and biofuels offer the greatest opportunities.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its
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target?
Because of the pace and scale that new technologies are appearing, it's impossible to account for their impacts. Scenarios with varying timescales might be useful but will most likely be wrong. We can assume technologies will come faster and most likely better than we expect.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
The impacts of doing nothing on the New Zealand economy and its reputation.

Information on the economic benefits of taking action.

The importance of removing subsidies from the fossil fuel industry.

I want KiwiSaver to remove fossil fuels from its investment portfolio.

I want cross party consensus on targets and plans.

We need a responsible body in this area that operates beyond electoral cycles.

Is it right to leave these issues for future generations to solve?

Reliance on offshore fossil fuels or drilling/ fracking for oil has much greater impacts compared to utilising our own natural renewable energy and rapidly innovating smart energy sources and fuels.