

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

## Submission form

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## 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

1b. What is most important to you?

The language in 1a is far too nebulous. Need firm high targets that will show the world we have a strong commitment to protecting our coasts and lands and peoples from the worst of climate change, that has year on year targets and plans, and that pushes for a target that is at least a 90% reduction in total emissions by 2050 and preferable before. A safe climate is what is most important to me, and anything less than an ambitious target will fail to trigger a world response that is safe.

## 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 should set a very ambitious target of 90% by 2050 because we have a small economy that is almost totally reliant on a stable and safe climate. So we need to set a target that is world leading in the rate of getting to zero emissions.

## 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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**

We need an economy that will function now and in the future. A poor target, 40% or less, puts any future economic and in fact social progress at risk, and so the target needs to be very ambitious, with annual targets and cross-party consensus supporting it, including establishment of an independent commission of government to lead implementation of measures and their monitoring to achieve this.

- 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?**

Solar, tide power, micro hydro, micro wind, geothermal. Offsets, especially offshore credits, are not acceptable. The main opportunity is to make a plan with yearly targets, rather than setting long term targets with no real plan to achieve.

## Summary

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

Use of the precautionary principle, which can only mean a rapid course correction to return to 350 parts per million CO2 equivalent.

## Other comments

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

To note that the IPCC reports are generally conservative, and to take into account the clear statements of James Hansen formerly of NASA Goddard Space Institute. A price on carbon producing certainty for the business and wider community is much more preferred than highly uncertain and easily perverted mechanisms such as trading schemes.

## 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.