

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



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## 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?

Yes, I agree so long as the objective is 40%

The world has 20 years to get the carbon emissions down to the prescribed budget.

There is no time to pussyfoot around making sure that everyone does their fair share.

New Zealand has to be bold and take the lead, to set an example.

As agriculture in New Zealand is a big contributor, work in that area. Intensive dairying has a lot to answer for.

Cut down the number of cows per hectare.

Benefits – the cows

- the pasture, the rivers
- less financial outgoings therefore the owners will not be affected so much when the global price for dairying goes down
- less methane and nitrous oxide emissions
- Make sure that funds are available for research and trials into emission controls on dairy farms.

Carbon Trading I can see some point in carbon trading. Those who are prepared to plant trees can get a financial return on their investment. But I cannot see the gain in CO2 reductions if NZ relies on carbon trading overseas to offset their targets. It might achieve a benefit for NZ but in doing so it is not reducing carbon emissions in reality, just making it look better in the books.

We need to invest in planting more forests for the timber industry, also we could plant areas back into native forest in general to beautify the land and help prevent soil erosion.

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?

It doesn't matter what the nature of the emissions are. We must have the overall contribution equivalent to the 40% reduction. Since 1990 New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions have grown to about 21%. This is not something to be proud of.

"The sources that contributed most to this increase were CO2 emissions from road transport as well as nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture" page -----

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Answer: Road Transport – we must go back and develop a very efficient rail transport system. There must be many things presently transported by road that could be efficiently transported by rail. We do not need larger and larger trucks and lorries. Rail transport for people and goods is a must.

Christchurch for example should be allowing for and developing fast rail to the city. More and more housing development is pushing out North and West. The rail tracks are already there in those directions. The space is presently available in the city to set up a link network. But it must be done now. The main roads are overloaded at peak hours with a high percentage of one person, one car. This scenario is surely repeated up and down the country.

For the sake of the planet and its future inhabitants, we must all be less selfish and share transport or find alternatives to one car, one person.

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?  
COST of the target.

Climate change is a given.

The time is well past for us to be tinkering with “how much we will commit to”

Make it 40% below 1990 levels then work from that fact.

If 5% below 1990 is going to cost \$1,270 per annum, then there is not a lot of difference over 12 months with 40% below 1990 at a cost of \$1,800 This amounts to \$150.00 per month per household

Or \$37.30 per week per household

Cost of Not Reducing to 40% below 1990 levels.

The climate is changing, the sea levels are rising

Increased variations / extremes in temperature.

Droughts – the cost of remediation?

Floods – the cost of remediation?

Storms – the cost of remediation?

What is the cost of drought relief to farmers?

What is the cost of repairing storm damage?

When the sea levels rise so much that our Pacific neighbours have to leave their homes, we are obliged to take them in. What of that cost?

Have the above costs that will occur in the above examples been factored into and compared with the costs of doing very little?

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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? Fuel and Energy changes will occur to everyone's benefit, but it does need Government / Industry financial input to get it off the ground. It is almost impossible for developers to finance these undertakings without financial assistance.

Electric Cars – I can see the potential in these, but again it needs the will and financial support of government and or big business.

Reducing green house gas emissions and improving water quality, if this means reducing the number of stock on dairy farms then this will be advantageous.

- More forestry blocks and general tree planting would be beneficial to all and improve erosion control.
- Reducing green house gases must be at the top of the list, along with alternative transport as described in Box 9 and Biofuel technology.

Agricultural Emissions –

Dairying will just have to reduce the size of its herds by making less intensive farming. As previously mentioned there will be many advantages.

Smaller farms – mean families can own them as in previous decades and employ married couples. All this is better for the communities – people who will belong to a district and interact for the benefit of the families and communities.

The cows will have a better life style and live longer.

There is obviously scientific work going on to develop technologies to reduce methane gas emissions from cows. The Government should continue with financial help to progress this.

We should not be relying on dairying to keep us solvent. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket!" The speed of the global transition to a low emissions world – will only reach an acceptable pace if countries like New Zealand go all out for a 40% reduction NOW.

"Discussions with you over time" – p17

We don't have time! We just don't have time for endless discussions.

I went to one of your meetings the other evening in Christchurch, with about 150 people who were all seriously concerned about the slow rate of progress.

Several years ago I attended a meeting on Global Warming in the Convention Centre in Christchurch, prior to an international meeting. People then were very concerned. The government wanted our opinions, votes were taken.

What happened? Nothing.

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## Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target? Go for it. There is more to lose than the cost of delay.

## Other comments

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