

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



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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

Fair is not enough of a objective as kiwis we should be leaders in tackling this climate change. The costs and impacts on society caused by inaction are immense I feel the second objective does not accurately reflect this.

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 already are in a strong position to be leaders in acting on Climate Change. I think New Zealand should be aiming for 100% renewables and as the IPCC report outlines be focusing on reducing Carbon emissions. New Zealand could make large reductions in our transport emissions, especially if we stopped building expensive roading projects that tie us into a future of carbon intensive personal transport. We should be focusing on public and rail based transport.

New Zealand could be a leader in the new low carbon smart economy. We need to move away from low value primary industry's and set ourself up as exporters of high value low carbon products to really grow New Zealands economy.

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?

I disagree with this question in itself. No reduction in annual household consumption is reasonable. Why can we not have a win-win situation here. Why can't New Zealand be leaders in taking action on Climate Change and in the process grow New Zealands economy. Additionally any cost in taking action on climate change is not a cost if it prevents furture or current costs caused by inaction. In the case where a win- win is not possible then I believe any costs involved in maintaining a habitable world are worth it.

I also strongly agree with the Generation Zero's comments on this document which are listed below.

The Government's narrow fixation on the short-term costs of taking action is flawed and damaging. This is about investing in a safe and prosperous future where we're all better off. Failing to act will cost us and the World Bank warns that the longer action is delayed, the more costs will rise for the next generation. Taking action to cut carbon pollution in New Zealand creates benefits like cleaner air, less dependence on foreign oil, better human health and more liveable cities. Our existing renewable electricity portfolio is an opportunity, not an excuse for inaction. By

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building on this we can be a positive example to other countries, pioneer solutions the rest of the world needs, and capture new economic opportunities.

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? All of the opportunities outlined should be pursued. These options should be actioned now though. All of the tools exist and should be harnessed, not talked about. I want to see meaningful policy changes that will start cutting New Zealand's emissions, during this term of government.

In order to meet our targets we need a credible national strategy for how we can achieve them. Without a clear pathway, targets are just empty numbers. Despite existing targets for 2020 and 2050, New Zealand's emissions have continued to rise. Official projections say they will continue rising under current policies. Our international reputation can't survive that much longer - we need real results.

Summary

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

The UK Climate Change Act provides a model for government commitment and accountability that New Zealand should adopt. This Act puts national emissions targets in domestic law (which is not the case in New Zealand) and requires every government to produce credible plans to meet these. This will show other countries we are serious. The Act also sets up an independent Climate Commission to advise government on its policies and hold whoever is in power accountable. This makes the issue of climate change less politicised by having an authoritative independent voice in the debate.

I want a New Zealand climate law that holds the government accountable for reducing emissions, and an independent Climate Commission.

Carbon dioxide is the main driver of long-term climate change. The discussion document highlights that for a good chance of limiting warming to less than 2°C, the world can emit less than one trillion tonnes of CO₂ from now on. At current rates of emissions, the world will blow this carbon budget by 2035. Regardless of what we do about other emissions from agriculture, every country ultimately needs to reduce CO₂ emissions to zero to stop climate change and avoid blowing the global carbon budget. That means shifting from fossil fuels to clean energy and planting forests to absorb carbon. ?

I want New Zealand to call for a global zero carbon target, and walk the talk by committing to a pathway towards zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 or earlier (alongside reductions in other greenhouse gases).

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain. This document failed to mention the role New Zealand has in representing many of the pacific nations (those most at risk). I think more consideration around this point is required. I also felt that this document failed to represent any of the issues or costs of inaction. Finally the document focused primarily on economic arguments. Climate change will have huge social and environmental impacts which will be catastrophic, particularly the effects of health. The benefits of action, economic, environmental and social all should be further explored. For example active transport and how that improves health or improving energy efficiency in homes and how that makes them warmer and healthier have not been properly discussed. All in all the consultation on this issue has been rushed and very disappointing. Ministers should have been present at consultation meetings. As a young New Zealander I wish the representatives that are paid to govern on my behalf to take this issue seriously and start the action that is

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required. For this to happen we need cross party action that is transparent. The following is from Generation Zero and reflects my views on this.

This issue needs cooperation across the political spectrum and efforts to engage all New Zealanders in the solutions. Climate policy can't go on being a political football with major policy flip-flops every time there's a change in government. We need stable climate policy that steers us clearly towards a zero carbon society. This will allow businesses to make good long-term decisions and New Zealand will benefit by attracting investment in low carbon industries and innovation.

I want the Government to establish a cross-party climate working group and an ongoing programme to engage meaningfully with New Zealanders on climate change solutions.?