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

Copy of your submission

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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 is unique in that its population size does not reflect the influence it can have over much larger countries. If we want to mold a fair and equitable world then it is our responsibility to lead by example. We did just that when we were first to give women the vote, when we stood up to America regarding nuclear powered ships and when we stood up to South Africa over apartheid. There a many thing New Zealand has done that I am proud of, but it has been a long time between drinks. Lately we seem to sit back and follow Australia’s lead. This is our opportunity to stand up and lead the rest of the world into the future. A future that simply cannot continue to produce greenhouse gases at the current rate. We should take the opportunity to do something great.

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?
New Zealand’s economy is strongly geared towards dairy farming, which makes us vulnerable to global market changes. Just like Australia took a hard knock when China no longer wanted their iron ore, we will be devastated when they tell us they no longer want our milk. Encouraging diversity in agriculture would reduce our vulnerability to fluctuation in a single market and would reduce our carbon emissions. Encouraging research and development into alternative energy and energy storage could also help change our economy from one producing low value products to one producing high value products that the rest of the world needs. The best way to encourage this would be to provide disincentive to continue business as usual.

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?
The cost of reducing emissions by 40% on 1990 levels is $1800 per household. The cost of the 5% target is $1270. That’s a 42% cost increase for an 800% better target. It’s a no brainer. The greatest savings can be made in industry and especially agriculture. Dairy farmers have been profiting by pollution our air and waterways for too long. They need to start being responsible for the effects this has on the rest of the world. The technology is already available for the average household to function off the grid. These technologies will improve over the next 15 years and we could be at the forefront of that development. Imagine the savings that could be made by no longer having to maintain an electricity distribution network. We need to start thinking ahead.
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 them. This question is pointless.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
We should drive the change instead of waiting for it to happen. Why don’t we created an educated innovative workforce so that we can export our technologies elsewhere???

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
Managing the environment is probably the most important issue facing the planet right now. If we continue on our current trajectory what will the planet be like in another couple of hundred years? Let make our legacy one to be proud of. The one where we turned the tide and started thinking about others instead of just the state of our own bank balances in the next 3-5 years. We need strong, bold leadership to make that happen. Please be a strong bold leader.