

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?

The objectives are not defined but the overall lack of urgency of the document or details of roll out of measures to reduce our impact on climate change would suggest that the measure of; 'fair' does not include fairness for small island countries like the maldives or small pacific islands, 'costs and impacts' do not include the cost and impact of extinction of species including those that are currently harvested for consumption e.g. 'shellfish' affected by sea acidification levels, 'guide' and 'long term' there is no road map in the document of how to achieve the reduction in emissions and under the current emission levels and trends outlined there is no 'long term'.

These terms fair, cost and impact, and guide without definition or a step by step method of reducing emissions are likely to jeopardise any action by sparking further protracted debate.

The document should include;
real costs of environmental degradation, vanishing nature, loss of commons and harvest not a paltry money cost to household,
a step by step pathway to carbon emission reduction with an associated timeline,
maximum carbon emission reduction as early as possible.

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?

NZ's emissions per person are high.

There seems to be no appetite by the current government to really address the long term health and sustainability of the NZ environment and people. Resource use remains high and extractive industries are high on the agenda. Agriculture has long been our primary industry but then tourism is set to out compete in terms of earning and we have fisheries that will negatively affected by climate change.

Buying carbon credits is equivalent to 'offsetting' and is a dangerous mechanism without debilitating worldwide rules and conditions and monitoring. It will not work well with current inequality, greedy free trade agreements particularly with the recent penchant for intercountry lawsuits and has a high failure potential.

There may be some discomfort to going to 40% but there is a very dangerous cost in only going to 5%. The environmental degradation, loss of resources and possible impact on future technology will reduce our economy enourmously if we dont act now.

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So we have to rethink how we do business and fast. This is a time to decide how we measure our economy and well being, how we redistribute wealth, how we value and care for our environment and people.

A small token idea expansion of the recent initiative with insulation in reducing power consumption a similar model could be used to encourage photovoltaics and solar along with a credible return for feedback to the grid.

An initiative to encourage roll out of electric cars with a nation-wide order paid over time so the production company has its r&d costs covered and can get up to production quickly and there are economies of scale.

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? Aim for the biggest reduction in carbon emissions possible as early as possible.

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? Aim for the biggest reduction in carbon emissions possible as early as possible.

Public and Electric or alternative powered transport.

Decentralised power capture.

New technologies.

Stop extractive industries.

Greening projects.

No TPPA or agreements that hinder NZ control over our economy or that risk exposure to Lawsuit.

Summary

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

Aim for the biggest reduction in carbon emissions possible as early as possible to retain as many natural resources as possible so as not to limit future possible use in technological advances.

Other comments

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

The document should include;

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a step by step pathway to carbon emission reduction with an associated timeline,

maximum carbon emission reduction as early as possible.

The current proposal falls well short of what NZ can achieve in carbon emission reduction. It presents an incredibly short sighted approach to an urgent and long term issue. It is an embarrassing proposal to table in an international arena. It shows a very short sighted Government and it does not reflect the will of a lot of New Zealanders.

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Sorry I have run out of time.