

# 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?

1b. What is most important to you? That we move quickly and intelligently on this, and that we lead the world.

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 have so many 'stupid' emissions - emissions that are unnecessary. For example, long-distance trucking over routes for which there is a rail line. The difficulty of going anywhere other than by car. Our economy has shown itself to be very flexible, and given the economic opportunities climate change prevention brings I think we can be less fearful of change.

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?

Level of cost - well, we have to do whatever it takes. Don't we. The choice we have is not how much we spend, or what is a "reasonable reduction in annual household consumption", it is that we lead the necessary change ourselves or we have it imposed on us. I'd prefer to choose the change. It seems smarter.

I was a kid in the 70s and 80s. We had so much less household consumption then, but I don't recall any resentment about it. We were happy. Sure, I would have liked to have all the latest things, but I didn't get them and I don't believe it made my life worse. My parents would say it was good for me. I'm sure my parents would have liked to be able to afford 'the bach, the boat, the BMW' - but we were happy. I am not sure that reducing annual household consumption is as scary as all that.

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? A quick transition to a low-carbon economy.

## Summary

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

We don't need future technologies. We have everything we need to prevent climate change right now. So don't take them into account. As the child of a builder I can tell you that things are never as you expect, even when measured

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down to the tiniest detail. But with careful attention to the details and the big picture, the necessary adjustments get made when they need to get made. I think we need careful attention more than we need concern about possible future uncertainties.

Other comments

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

I want us to be world leaders on this. In the 80s we led the field in so many areas. Now it feels like we are dropping way too far behind on the most important thing happening in our lifetimes. This feels scary and unsafe.

I want not only governmental leadership on climate change, arguing for stronger, bigger changes internationally and implementing first-class policy at home, but I also want governmental recognition and support of the economic and security opportunities that prevention of climate change brings.

In my own field (law), climate change prevention is bringing new areas of work. In manufacturing there are new and broader fields, for example in the energy-related components and systems to be produced. In agriculture there are exciting ways of producing for discerning markets both at the primary and value-added levels, while at the same time improving soils (so enhancing the value of the farms).

This is huge. It is exciting. It is the best opportunity for positive change that I can think of. And frankly if Germany's conservative government can do this, we can do it better. Much better.

We are an adaptable people. Let's be sure that the future we are adapting to is the one we want.

It's time to get on with it. You have my 100% support on this.