

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

New Zealand needs to take a leadership position which reflects the concerns of our Pacific Island neighbours as well as our own and ensures that future generations do not have to bear the consequences of our inaction. We owe it to future generations to take action NOW.

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?

As a country abundantly blessed with renewable energy sources, we should move rapidly to transition away from fossil fuels and continue to develop technologies which assist our own and other nations to reduce emissions e.g. coal fire emission scrubbing. We need to continue and fund the work on methane emission diminution. Because our economy is so weather dependent we cannot afford to give the issue of climate change lip service alone. Our scientists are telling us we need to reduce our 1990 level of emissions by 80-95% by 2050 to avoid additional warming above the now inevitable 2 degrees.

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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

The net costs or benefits are unknown. There has been emphasis on costs but, for example, "England has benefitted economically as a direct result of their ambitious targets" (Ann Smith, CEO Enviro-Mark Solutions).

As the World Bank report on Decarbonising Development indicates waiting just 15 more years and taking no action until 2030 would increase costs by an average of 50% through to 2050.

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?

Electric and hybrid cars together with increased public transport and enabling more cycling and walking offer fairly quick returns both in reduction of emissions and in increased health outcomes.

Summary

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

We should do global research on what technologies already exist or are on the verge of breakthroughs and continue to encourage research in New Zealand.

We should research and discuss the **benefits** of changes to get a better view of the net position rather than emphasising only the costs.

Other comments

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

Need for:

A cross party consensus on targets and a more robust commitment to meeting them than we have managed so far.

A body outside the government of the day to check progress on targets.

More balanced discussion of costs and benefits of action and inaction.

More discussion of the disruption to our economy and ecology due to extreme weather events; Increasing costs of insurance etc

A removal of subsidies from fossil fuel industry

Kiwisaver to remove investments in fossil fuel industry

Increased planting of long term native forests to offset carbon emissions and increase tourist potential