Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jack Byrne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisation (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world

Do you agree with the above objectives for New Zealand’s contribution?

I agree with the concepts of New Zealand making a fair and ambitious contribution. We are extremely reliant on New Zealand’s perception as a clean green economy and it is therefore in our best interests to take some lead on climate change.

It is important that the costs linked to a low target and maintaining the status quo are also measured – as well as the benefits of being early innovators. The costs of a 40% reduction target cannot be considered in isolation from, for example, the costs of more frequent storms, rising sea levels and loss of productive farm land. Much more importantly the impacts of climate change result in huge threats to wellbeing both for our people, for our Pacific neighbours and for people in other nations.
1b. **What is most important to you?**

For me, the most important objective is the third - guiding New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world. However my significant concern is that the use of the words “long term” may create the false belief that this is not an urgent issue or that it is subordinate to other concerns. It is vital that New Zealand takes immediate action to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Current negotiations for the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement demonstrate how easy it is for other objectives to be prioritised over New Zealand’s ability to have autonomous environmental policies.

If we delay taking action it is likely our emissions profile will worsen, making it harder and more costly to take action in the future. Clearly it is far more cost effective to take action now than to become even more dependent on industries and practices that contribute to climate change.

Many of the technologies for reducing our emissions (or providing carbon sinks) are already available. There are several ways to manage farms, for example, that ensure carbon rich soils and would help mitigate the atmospheric carbon produced by agriculture. These technologies would not only improve our emissions profile but would also make our products more sustainable in the long term, both for our own people and for people in countries with a less productive agricultural sector.

Technologies for sustainable transport are also numerous.

**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?**

I believe that a ‘fair’ target should be on a per capita basis, not in relation to our ‘special circumstances’. Arguably every country has ‘special circumstances’. I suggest our circumstances are seen as leadership opportunities, not as reasons for us to set a less ambitious target than other nations.

Our good performance on renewable energy could be improved even further with energy efficiency, and with much greater support for localised and domestic solar production and wind turbines. We are world leaders in renewable energy, and the need to consider our greenhouse gas emissions is an excellent opportunity to build on that.

On a more general level, NZ has a relatively robust economy and we have a well educated, creative and innovative population. This helps put us in a position to lead by example and set a strong target.

**How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?**

3. **What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?**
It is unlikely, and inappropriate, that the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions should fall equally on all households. The principle of fairness suggests that instead costs should be primarily borne by emitters – especially if they will benefit the most from any transition subsidies. This would leave a lower proportion to be borne by households generally.

The cost of a 40% target seems to us to be extraordinarily low given the far greater financial, social and environmental costs of not taking strong action now. It is the absolute minimum that New Zealand should consider.

Many positive actions to improve our emissions profile also result in savings in annual household consumption. For example sustainable forms of transport are generally cheaper overall – cycling and walking are much cheaper than driving. Domestic solar panels and better insulation reduce the electricity costs of households.

I am also fully in favour of protected areas of native forest that would provide carbon sinks and improve biodiversity. This is a preferred option to relying on buying carbon credits from other countries.

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?**

As methane production is the largest cause of New Zealand’s GHG emissions that is the area for the biggest opportunity to create innovative solutions. The agricultural industry could be subsidised to transition to more sustainable methods involving lower emissions.

I also support developing a comprehensive transport sector plan that prioritises public transport options.

Another area where considerable health and wellbeing gains can be made is by improving the insulation and energy efficiency of our built environment. This could include providing greater incentives for landlords to insulate homes.

**Summary**

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

The earlier New Zealand takes action to cut emissions, the more options we have and the greater control we have over our future. This includes being able to reap the most benefits of emerging technologies.

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

The so called consultation I attended demonstrated a strong desire by the community to be involved in discussions about climate change and our individual and collective roles in addressing these challenges. I would like to see a series of national dialogues on these issues – involving schools, central and local government, tertiary institutions, runanga and community organisations. Industry (including employer and union organisations) should be involved in these discussions as changing the way we work is vital too.

**When your submission is complete**

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.