

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Wayne Butson

Organisation (if applicable)

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution? No

1b. What is most important to you?

It is important that New Zealand pledges to reduce its carbon emissions by the % that science has determined is necessary to prevent global warming exceeding 2 degrees. There is no other factor that is relevant. Any words around what is "affordable" or what is "fair" ignore the whole reason why this limit is being set. It is being set because of physics, and physics does not care about fairness. The only thing that matters is achieving the scientifically recommended limit.

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 should pledge at least a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by 2030. We could of course choose to pledge more, and show some real world leadership, but 40% is the minimum acceptable level. It's embarrassing to be beaten by China: China pledged in 2009 to reduce CO2 emissions by 40-45% on 2005 levels by 2020.

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?

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?

There is no trade-off against cost or what is "reasonable" 40% is required, so that is what must be set. To deny science is what is unreasonable.

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?

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?

This question is irrelevant. Once the pledge has been made, the government will be responsible for directing research and policy towards those areas which are best suited to achieving the goal. What is chosen for this effort should be decided by scientific research

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



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

Copy of your submission

Summary

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

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

We should not - We should attempt to meet our target using currently available technologies. If future technologies become available, then that will make it possible for us to achieve our goal faster, but we should not depend on crossing our fingers and hoping something better comes along.

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
At the very least this Government should retain and invest in the North Island main trunk electrification system. There is no support to abandon this system and replace with dirty diesel.