

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



Copy of your submission

Contact information

Name Kate Caldwell

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 not only important that it is SEEN as a fair and ambitious contribution, but that it IS a fair and ambitious contribution. This is because we MUST keep total global carbon dioxide emissions well below the capacity of our planet to keep the country (and the world) safe for human beings and the ecological systems we depend on for our survival.

It absolutely cannot be understated how imperative it is that we have the ambitious aim of reducing carbon emissions to ZERO by 2050. The survival of the human species depends on this.

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?

The discussion document states that "due to our national circumstances, New Zealand has fewer low-cost options to reduce our domestic emissions compared with other developed countries." This is true, and nobody said this would be easy, but current and future human wellbeing depends on not exceeding our global carbon budget. We are a relatively wealthy country, and also a high contributor of carbon emissions. I believe that this means our 'fair' contribution would be to not just look at low-cost options for reducing our domestic emissions, but to look at high-cost options also. I want the Government to act on climate change as an investment in our future, and this may mean cutting costs elsewhere in order to put greater amounts of money into reducing our carbon emissions.

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?

The costs of climate inaction far exceed the cost of taking action and I believe we must account for this in our calculations. If this affects some of the comforts that New Zealanders have (such as not being charged for or taxed on environmentally destructive activities), I believe this is nothing compared to the huge financial costs, environmental and social problems that will result from not taking ambitious (and expensive) action on climate change.

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?

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



Copy of your submission

Summary

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

Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain.
I want a New Zealand climate law that holds the government accountable for reducing emissions, and an independent Climate Commission. This is much bigger than party politics. If New Zealanders are not taking this problem seriously, or realising the implications of our inaction, more education is absolutely necessary. I believe the government is selfishly choosing weak action in favour of the wellbeing of future generations.
I want to see meaningful policy changes that will start cutting New Zealand's emissions, during this term of government.