

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? Yes

1b. What is most important to you?

I believe New Zealand should take a leadership position (for New Zealand as well as our Pacific neighbours) and stimulate a low-carbon economy based around smart, sustainable solutions.

I would like an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledges to phase out existing extraction in the next decade. I believe that all subsidies, tax-breaks and funding to fossil fuels should be phased out within the decade. I would like to see NZ commit to a global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050 or sooner with annual steps to get there as quickly as possible.

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 we need science-based targets that show New Zealand is making a fair contribution that reinforces its international reputation. I would like to see New Zealand as a nation powered by 100% renewable energy with a speedy transition away from fossil fuels. We market ourselves as clean, green, pristine wilderness and yet this is all smoke and mirrors, we need to value and protect our land and people and get serious about climate 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?

Why assume greater cost will be involved? If we align our spending to a low carbon economy we will find savings and efficiencies which should see a reduction in annual household consumption through mega efficiency.

We should include the broad and true cost of inaction on climate change in the assessment of costs and benefits, by taking into account health and wellbeing. Focusing solely on economics is short-sighted and old-fashioned.

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?

We believe that a transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid cars, along with a greater focus on active modes of transport, such as cycling and walking, and biofuels offer the greatest opportunities.

With so many benefits, EVs offer New Zealand an opportunity to transform the way we use energy. According to Fraser Whineray, CEO of Mighty River Power, "No country is more EV ready than New Zealand".

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Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

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Summary

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

New technologies are coming at a pace and scale which make accounting for their impacts impossible. Scenarios with varying timescales might be useful but will most likely be wrong. We can assume technologies will come faster and most likely better than we expect.

Other comments

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

I would like:

For KiwiSaver to remove fossil fuels from its investment portfolio.

To see that there is a transparent decision-making process set up for after the consultation period ends. I would like to see a credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.