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Ministry of environment
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Submission Zero Carbon

1. Is Zero Carbon by 2050 realistic?
2. The atmosphere needs CO2 and its derivatives to grow green material.
3. Green house gases are just 1% of the world's atmosphere 78% N, 21% O2.
4. The USA- world's largest economy (25%) has rejected being involved.
5. Aviation has been excluded- Why? This is absurd. It takes nearly 200 tonnes of A1 aviation fuel to fly a large aircraft from NZ to London. The fuel is mined from underground where it has been sequestered over millions of years. It is released to the atmosphere, over a relatively short period of time, in huge quantities. Carbon energy, stored up over a long period in the form of oil, gas and coal is being burnt in enormous quantities. There is no evidence that this is going to change.
6. Oil is used for
    a. Packaging (plastic)
    b. Clothing (nylon etc)
    c. Floor Covering
    d. Toys
    e. Furnishing etc
    f. Vehicles
    g. Fertiliser (nitrogen)
    To name a few.
7. Where is NZ going to derive its wealth? Currently 80% comes from land based activity. There is talk of new jobs and new industries- like what? Mention is made of cleaner air, clean water and better health. I drink the water from my creek. Our cities, towns and surrounds are polluted. You can't swim round many of them. New Zealanders health is awful. Over weight and lazy! Plenty of motor vehicles.
8. How does NZ earn its wealth?
    a. Manufacturing- This is only a small contributor except where value is added to raw materials from agriculture.
    b. Technology- In competition with the rest of the world it is only a small contributor to wealth which benefits a few.
    c. Education- A heavily subsidised industry.
    d. Tourism- This industry's net economic contribution is nearly zero. New Zealanders spend as much travelling off shore as we earn. It is also heavily subsidised by rate payers and tax payers. No comment is made about the enormous amount of fuel used in aircraft, ships, buses, cars, campervans to get our tourists to and from NZ and then move them around. Tourist jobs create just $84,000 per labour unit.
    e. Agriculture
        i. Earns 80% of NZ's net wealth. Still our trade balance is negative. What's everybody else doing?
        ii. Each dairy farm worker generates $340,000 (4x Tourism)
        iii. NZ is one of the few countries where skilful farmers can harness sunlight and water to produce food relatively cheaply and in a sustainable manner. Grassland sequesters carbon yet this fact is ignored The whole process of farming domestic animals is a virtuous cycle- net carbon emissions are near zero.
9. New Zealand's animal population has dropped 8% since 1990 and output has grown enormously e.g sheep numbers have halved, but production numbers have remained the

same. Agriculture has to compete with industries which are subsidised or operate without competition for resources e.g, tourism, education and the government sector.

10. Removing animals from agriculture would place reliance on crops which are dependent on
    a. Weather-wet, cold, frosts
    b. Water- irrigation
    c. Sprays- pests, disease, weeds. Resistance becomes an issue.
    d. Suitable soils-(for location, structure and mineral properties) is being swallowed up by housing and urban development.
    e. Processing and the reliance on food additives and preservatives, clean water and energy.
    f. Enormous amounts of fertiliser, especially N, which comes from the oil industry.
11. Agriculture is heavily reliant on immigration. New Zealanders don't want to be involved. The industry struggles to harvest horticultural crops, shear its sheep or milk its cows.

There are some associated issues which any solution to Green House Gases must encompass

1. NZ is a debt/credit fuelled economy. It runs at an economic loss (N.B trade balance is negative) and we are starved of investment……. $5 Billion of profits (Banks) moved offshore to Australia in just one year.
2. There is an expectation that agriculture will fund the nation's lifestyle. Soil and water do not give credit.
3. Agriculture competes for resources with other subsidised industries
4. The industrial and agricultural revolutions added enormous value. The digital, technological revolution has not. It has simply changed the way we do things. It has added cost and created an issue with the disposal of its waste.
5. Electric vehicles are dependent on lithium- a mined finite resource. How do we repair /maintain them and then dispose of the waste.
6. Planting trees is not a solution. They only sequester carbon for a short period and have a limited lifecycle.
7. How does the Emissions trading scheme etc fit in with the natural phenomenon which we cannot control eg earthquakes/ volcanoes.
8. Is not pollution a bigger concern especially in our seas?
9. The transport and packaging of our natural products is where you should focus your attention in agriculture.
10. Solar/ wind energy can only be stored in quantity by pumping water up into dams. The hydro portion then used when solar/ wind not operating.
11. The govt needs to discourage use of energy which is a pollutant. Commuter traffic is a major issue. Is fuel too cheap? How do you constrain the public service use of fuel?
12. The Emissions Trading Scheme is exactly that. It solves nothing and just makes traders richer.
13. The solution to reducing carbon emissions is to not use carbon emitting fuels. There is no other solution
14. Immigration needs to be controlled i.e. the world is just shipping its issues with population to NZ putting significant strain on our environment.
    Recycling is not energy efficient. Get rid of plastic

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