

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



Copy of your submission

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

1b. What is most important to you?

What I see as most important is creating a sustainable future overall. Point 3 is very important, as it is our responsibility as citizens of the world to make it a better place. As such we do need an ambitious contribution - one that will really make a difference, not just satisfy some quotas. Costs and impacts of climate change will indeed need to be managed appropriately. As we know, even if we stopped all emissions now, the effects of climate change would still be noticeable. This provides both the imperative to act towards reducing emissions to limit these effects, and a need to think about how New Zealand will deal with the effects that are already unavoidable. For example, how will it do its part in helping climate change refugees?

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 think that it is a good idea to focus on agricultural emissions, but energy and transport emissions should not be ignored. All emissions will need to be reduced dramatically if we are to truly make a difference. New Zealand's economy will be hugely affected by climate change, which means that targets must be as ambitious as possible. Reducing the effects of climate change quickly and effectively is an investment in our future. And the cost of not doing anything is phenomenal.

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?

Reducing emissions should be a top priority. With a combination of renewable energy, efficient use, and better transport, there does not need to be a huge cost to each person.

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?

A combination of opportunities will be necessary to make the change we need. Better public and local transport, electric cars, renewable energy, biofuel (especially generated from micro algae), and public education are all important steps to a carbon neutral future. The important thing is that industries, households, and government work together to achieve this goal.

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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 Zealand should have a backup plan. Take note of what other countries are doing to reduce their emissions. Some new technologies may not work at first, but climate change definitely will not work.

As for initial costs, I reiterate that these are an investment in our future and are outweighed by the social, environmental, and economic cost of inaction. New Zealand should consider this thoroughly when setting its target, which should be as ambitious as possible.

I am concerned about the language used throughout this consultation which points to action on climate change as a costly activity when really it is a matter of using our resources as best we can to ensure a carbon-neutral, sustainable future.

Other comments

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

Make climate change a top priority for the government. Connect with local councils and NGOs. Most importantly, review the current 'business as usual' practices and make some changes. Please also keep the public involved.

This is an issue that concerns all of us, so stop putting it on the back burner.

Taking action on climate change is not costly, it is imperative. We have the technology and the ideas. It's time to put them into action. New Zealand needs ambitious targets, and a robust action plan to get us there. We need a carbon-neutral, sustainable future. I urge the government to invest in our future, and to commit to climate action.