

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? No

1b. What is most important to you?

I believe that New Zealand should take a leadership position (for us and our Pacific neighbours) and stimulate a low-carbon economy based around smart sustainable solutions as well as sustainable investment. An objective should also be to manage the benefit to society, not just the cost.

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?

New Zealand has a reputation of being clean and green, and it's time we reflected this. I would like to see NZ be powered by 100% renewable energy. The target should be for a minimum of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 with an aim to be 0% emissions by 2050

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 costs are involved? The benefits of efficient resource use and a low carbon economy should see a reduction in annual household consumption. The extra benefits in terms of health and wellbeing, through decreased air pollution, increased walking, social transportation and eating healthier diets also need to be quantified. The cost of healthcare in New Zealand is excessive and a transition to a low carbon economy will see this cost decrease.

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?

The greatest opportunity is in the ability to be 100% renewable, New Zealand has enough renewable electricity generation sources consented to meet 110% of our electricity demand. If these can be developed and a transition to electric vehicles, with a greater focus on active and social modes of transport then we have an enormous opportunity to move away from our reliance on fossil fuels. When one of these opportunities is realised (such as EV), other opportunities and benefits such as health and a decrease in fossil fuel dependence are an automatic response.

Summary

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

Technology is always uncertain. This is not necessarily going to be a cost to New Zealand and we can assume that technology will come faster and most likely be more beneficial than we expect. Technology does not always impose a cost and can help reduce our emissions if utilised correctly.

Other comments

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

The most important information needed is the cost of New Zealand not doing anything. This is a reputational cost as well as economic cost. The benefits of taking action also need to be realised and discussed. We can be a world leader in this, as we have been a world leader in the past. It is time for New Zealand to step up and take action. The removal of subsidies from the fossil fuel industry as well as the removal of fossil fuels from the Kiwisaver portfolio would send a direct message that we are serious about taking action.

The Government also needs to gain a cross party consensus on targets and plans, the best way to do that would be through an independent climate change committee that operates beyond electoral cycles so that future governments cannot retract policies and targets set.

We can also not include offsetting through forestry farming in our target. Other options would include restoring our indigenous biodiversity and creating permanent forest sinks. Offsetting alone misses the opportunities to innovate and make the change to new technologies with less environmental impact.

New Zealand can lead on this, we are ready to take this opportunity and lead the rest of the world. Since giving women the right to vote we have led the world in being progressive and innovative. This is not the time to take a step back and follow, it's the time to step up and lead.