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

**Copy of your submission**

**Contact information**

Name   Peter Deacon

Organisation (if applicable)

Address  

Telephone  

Email  

**Objectives for the contribution**

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?   Yes

1b. What is most important to you?
It must be very ambitious and the objective should be ZERO carbon emissions by 2050. Governments of the industrialised nations that are causing climate change have been collectively negligent in doing almost nothing to tackle this problem for 4 decades, even though they have been fully aware of the impending dangers of increasing global temperatures and possibly runaway climate change. It is not just the human race that will pay the costs - all species on the planet are now at real risk of mass extinction in the centuries ahead due to our activities. Now is the time for real action and large reductions in GHG emissions.

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?
All sectors of the economy must share responsibility for reducing GHG emissions - including agriculture, transport, industry and homeowners. Reduction target should be at least 5% per annum reduction in GHG across the board. This can be easily achieved simply by putting a realistic price on CO2 emissions ($50/tonne increasing by $10 per year) based on the damage that these emissions are clearly doing to our ecosystem. This CO2 tax would be paid by all polluters, collected by government and returned directly to all NZ citizens as a tax refund or dividend. Those people that pollute least will actually be better because they will receive more in dividend than they will pay in CO2 tax and so will able to use the extra money to invest in solar panels, home insulation, electric vehicles etc. so moving towards a fully zero carbon economy.

How will our contribution affect New Zealanders?

3. What level of cost is appropriate for New Zealand to reduce it’s greenhouse gas emissions? For example, what would be a reasonable reduction in annual household consumption?
Those people who stop polluting the atmosphere will be better off - those who persist in polluting will have to pay a higher and higher price for destroying our biosphere - so eventually they too will realise that they can no longer carry on with business as usual. Business as usual with unfettered capitalism and a human population explosion is what has caused this global climate crisis. No matter how costly the solution is to this problem it is nothing compared to the cost if we fail to act.

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?
5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
The future uncertainties are irrelevant when setting these targets. We are taking about the 6th mass extinction of all life on the planet, including 7 billion people - the targets must be set and they must be achieved - it may already be too late to prevent rapid and irreversible effects to our planet - we just have to act and do it now.

Other comments

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

The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC): MUST

(i) commit to a global and NZ zero carbon target by 2050 or sooner, with annual steps outlining how to get there as quickly as possible.

(ii) place an immediate moratorium on fossil fuel exploration, and pledge to phase out existing extraction within the decade. All subsidies, funding and tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry should be phased out within the decade.

(iii) include credible, transparent, cross-party plans, with a legislated, independent Climate Commission to ensure NZ meets its targets and stays within the global carbon budget.

(iv) Abide by the articles laid out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

(v) include health, fairness, and the true costs of inaction on climate change in the assessment of costs and benefits.

(vi) follow a transparent decision-making process after the consultation process ends.