

From: Patrick Doherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2015 9:34 p.m.
To: Climate Contribution
Subject: Submission 10148

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Submission on Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I ask you to adopt a minimum target of a 40% reduction in net emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 – the minimum contribution required to keep us under 2 degrees global warming.

The Government consultation document treats action on climate change as a cost, whereas failure to take action is actually the cost. Treasury found that if New Zealand continues on its current trajectory of increasing emissions, the cost to taxpayers of even a modest 5% reduction target will be up to \$52 billion. The more we lower our emissions the more we will reduce this cost.

Climate change is a threat to our economy and the things it most depends on, like tourism and farming. Our agricultural nation depends on a stable climate. Our farmers will suffer increased droughts and damaging storms and profits will suffer.

Responding to climate change is worth our while. The New Climate Economy Report released in 2014 by a team of internationally renowned economists, led by Lord Nicholas Stern, found that countries can improve their economic performance while cutting emissions. The Chair of the Bank of America, the head of the OECD, the World Bank, the Vice Chair of Deutsche Bank, and many others, endorsed this finding.

I request that you stop downplaying our responsibility for climate change saying New Zealand is too small to make a difference. It's not in our national character to sit on the fence and watch others get the job done.

It's time for us to do the right thing again. We were the first to give women the vote. We stood behind our Pacific neighbours in rejecting nuclear testing. Now's our chance to create a climate plan that New Zealanders can be proud to stand behind, and that starts with a target of reducing emissions by at least 40% by 2030.

Other Comments:

Climate Change Submission

I, Patrick Doherty
[REDACTED]

submit that:

A. We need a National Action Plan to

1. - set up a Climate Change Commission that is above party politics to:-

- set targets on carbon emissions
- monitor the performance of all sectors in the society
- enable Cross Party collaboration on climate issues

2. - protect our biodiversity by

- aiming carbon neutrality by 2050
- encouraging Organic Farming – which deposits bacteria in soil when compost breaks down and is CO₂

sequestering; additionally Organic Farming reduces Nitrous Oxide

3. - set yearly targets for switching to renewables.

- Germany's official governmental goal is to continuously increase renewables' contribution to the country's overall electricity consumption. Long-term minimum targets are 35% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Electricity Companies purchase from renewable sources went from 6% - 20%.

4. – work together and aim at a Low Carbon Economy which would

- remove subsidies to major emitters
- disinvest in Fossil Fuels
- cease investing in companies that invest in Fossil Fuels; for example Kiwi Saver
- electrify the main trunk rail
- stop Fonterra's use of coal
- put a price on carbon – carbon tax
- plan for actual reduction in Carbon use by the general public and transport
- audit the Government's own policies – they are also producing Carbon emissions

5. - educate New Zealanders for adapting Climate Change

- Schools, Businesses and Farmers must be educated about the changes to come
- Engineers for Sustainability consider that we should put more emphasis on education for climate change

6. - work for national carbon emissions reductions (CER) targets which would enable

- a 5% reduction in net carbon emissions by 2020; followed by a further 5% drop to 10% overall by 2025 from 1990 levels; followed by a further 5% drop to 15% overall by 2030; and 5% drops every 5 years to 2050 i.e. 35% by 2050.
- USA, EU and China all offering much higher CER; we must match them. Currently each New Zealander is emitting 17 tons of carbon per year. Citizens in the European Union only emit 7 tone per person; why can we not match them?
- overall we should aim at 0% Carbon emissions by 2050
- We have a responsibility to assume our fair share of the International Carbon budget
- We have a responsibility to support our Pacific neighbours by lowering our emissions

7. – agree, across party boundaries, and nationally with companies about reforestation

- we need net reforestation at a rate of 0.01m hectares per annum
- the government's encouragement through RMA changes to cut local mature trees is in conflict with our national plans to enable reforestation.

8. - to set up an Emission Trading Scheme

- We need an Emission Trading Scheme with a reasonable price for carbon: say \$12.50 per Ton now; increasing by \$2.50 per year to \$25 by 2020; not the ridiculous current 30c per Ton. This low price is subsidising fossil fuel producers by \$ Billion: after Sweden brought in charges of \$190 per ton their emissions dropped by 90%

9. - work to reduce methane emissions

- we need a target for methane emissions: say 1990 levels by 2025
- continue research on food for ruminants

B. There are real Opportunities at this time

although our health is threatened most from the effects of climate change and health costs are the fastest rising segment in the budget

- there are co-benefits, not just costs, which would improve health as well as working on strong climate change action if
- we encourage cycling; for every \$1 spent reduce these features

there are \$10 - \$25 benefits inequality and create

- we must encourage the use of public transport reductions in
- wat less read meat climate change

C. We need a Risk Analysis body set up to evaluate the

- costs of the impact of warming to 40c
- costs of 40% reduction and how we can do it
- species loss that we would incur and its effect on our people
- threats facing the 12 of our largest 15 cities from rising sea levels
- we need a need a national plan to evaluate the environmental effects of a rapid would be if there was a change climate disruption
- we need to cost the price in carbon to the biosphere of meat eating

D. Government must take a Visionary lead in this National/International emergency

- when there was drought in Otago in the 1970s the country was asked to reduce electricity use – there was a reduction of 10%; this was achieved because the Government asked for a reduction
- government is encouraging us to see this as a huge cost rather than an opportunity
- we need leadership and the confidence that we can influence other countries
- we need to challenges the Big Nations that we can all do our bit; Costa Rica, for example is aiming for 100% reduction in carbon emissions
- we need transparency from the government that they have listened to our submissions and are willing to tell us what their plans are about climate action
- set up a carbon tax; the money gained could be used to provide for the poor

E. There are Equity questions issues that must be asked and cannot be overlooked

- are we carrying our fair share internationally?
- how can we share costs equally, particularly those which will be borne by the most vulnerable - the environment, the poor nations and our children
- a Zero Emissions goal is possible, experts assert, if we all take our responsibility and do something bold
- but Future generations will carry the cost of us doing nothing

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