Kia ora,

Please find below my submission.

1. The discussion document is biased – in favour of current government economic policies. The document ignores the known costs of not acting now on climate change and the substantial financial incentives given to the fossil fuel industry, while exaggerating the costs on household consumption under meagre reduction targets.

2. New Zealand (NZ) is fully capable of reaching at least a 40% reduction target by 2030, within its environmental, technological and socio-economic parameters. We ask for this to be NZ’s contribution – a commitment based on science and ethical grounds.

3. This target or contribution must be supported by concrete policies and actions.

4. One of the key policies must be to stop granting new petroleum exploration and mining permits, ban fracking, and start incentivising sustainable and renewable energy investments and initiatives.

5. The discussion document offers no vision and no alternatives to unsustainable agriculture. Its claim of NZ being “a highly efficient producer” is unfounded, failing to consider the environmental impacts and associated economic costs it is causing. The over-emphases on technological fix (e.g. anti-methane vaccines) and international carbon offsets are NOT solutions to the social and environmental impacts of unsustainable practices.

6. NZ urgently needs a concrete policy on sustainable agriculture and forestry (with financial incentives) that will achieve a clear emission reduction target, increase carbon sink, break the dependence on fossil fuels (including natural gas derived urea and nitrogen inhibitors), heal the soil, clean the waterways and benefit small family farmers.

7. NZ urgently needs a comprehensive policy on sustainable transport, consisting largely of electric public transport, sea, rail and road freight powered by responsible biofuels (eg. waste wood), with clear contribution to emission reduction and energy independence.

8. NZ urgently needs a complete rewrite of our Energy Strategy (2011-2021), ditching the reliance on infinite growth and fossil fuels, and committing NZ to 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and carbon neutral by 2050.

Nga mihi nui

Michelle Ducat