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

Copy of your submission

Contact information

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Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Telephone

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Objectives for the contribution

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?  Yes

1b. What is most important to you?
It must be ambitious and guide NZ over the long term in a global transition to a low emissions world

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 the NZ economy is doing better than most other global economies so we in a good position now to make an ambitious contribution to cutting emissions.

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?
A 50% reduction in household emissions would be a reasonable reduction. The costs of taking action now is small compared to the costs of dealing with the impacts of climate change, e.g. floods, droughts, rising sea levels, economic sanctions against NZ for not pulling its weight and dealing with the humanitarian crisis of climate refugees. Also, it is unfair to push the cost of the negative impacts of climate change onto the younger generation of New Zealanders.

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?
All of the opportunities listed on page 15 of the discussion document are important for New Zealand. It is also important that New Zealand establishes credibility as a leader in climate solutions.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
It is important that we don’t expect a miracle technology to solve the problem. We have heard promises for decades of technical solutions such as hydrogen fuel cells and nuclear fusion. These have not become practical solutions.
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Other comments

6. Is there any further information you wish the Government to consider? Please explain. As a country of the South Pacific we also have a special responsibility to other small Island nations that are being especially hard hit by the impacts of climate change.