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?   Yes

1b. What is most important to you?
Only by setting a stretch target will the right incentives for innovation and emergence of new technologies, practices and cultures occur.

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?
We are currently completely underplaying the contribution to emissions reduction that could be had from changes to transport. More cycling and public transport in urban areas and more efficient long haul transport options.

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?
If the whole world is focused on emissions reduction, then this could be an opportunity which in the long run could offset costs. The modelling of the economic impacts has been done on the basis of data that is now nearly a decade old. Furthermore, as a model it is incapable of making any assumptions of where there might be adjustments to the economy if the incentives were there to do so. An 'eyes open' approach to setting an ambitious target would see government, businesses and the society as a whole adapting in creative ways to the new environment. And the changes that a small economy such as New Zealand is able to make could lead to exportable intellectual property.

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?
I don't think it is a matter of any one of the examples given being any more important than any other. They are all important and need to be included in a transition strategy for the country. They will interact with each other and other opportunities will also emerge. So there also needs to a an active and ongoing monitoring of the transition strategy in an adaptive way so that new opportunities can be recognised and capitalised upon.
5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?
Uncertainties should be acknowledged up front in a transition strategy; risks should also be monitored and mitigated but also the assumptions behind these risks also held subject to ongoing review about 'what does not fit' and emergent phenomena and patterns that might be indicators of how the New Zealand system as a whole is adapting to domestic and global changes.

Other comments

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