

Submission to the Climate Change Contribution Consultation

I believe that the consultation process is fatally flawed. More to the point, I believe it has been set up to fail. There has been minimal publicity. The consultation period is too short and there has been very little notice. The framing of the consultation document - for instance the exclusive focus on economic costs - is intended to distort the public's perception of the problem. The terms of reference – for instance the fact that the agriculture sector is off the table - preclude the discussion of meaningful solutions. And finally, leaving middle-rank public servants to front public discussions on such a critical issue is both cowardly and dismissive.

However, to disengage is to concede the field. A poor public response would give the National government the excuse it needs to dismiss the problem of climate change. For this reason alone I am making a brief submission. Because the pros and cons have been hashed over as nauseam, I will confine myself to a number of short statements.

I do not accept that:

- the costs of dealing with climate change are a justification for not acting aggressively;
- New Zealand's situation is sufficiently unusual or difficult to justify inaction;
- New Zealand should wait for other countries to act first.

I demand that:

- a target of reduction to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 be adopted;
- no sector of the economy be exempt;
- a thorough and complete study be launched on the costs of delaying action and the benefits of acting quickly;
- the government cooperates with all political parties and civil society organisations to find solutions;
- the government acts directly to combat climate change, and does not rely on 'market forces';
- climate change be treated as a long term national emergency.

Hugh Ferguson

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