

Setting New Zealand's post-2020 climate change target

Submission form

The Government is seeking views on New Zealand's post-2020 climate change contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online tool available at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations.

For more information about this consultation:

- Read our [Consultation on New Zealand's post-2020 international climate change contribution web page](#)
- Read our discussion document: [New Zealand's Climate Change Target: Our contribution to the new international climate change agreement](#)

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Questions to guide your feedback

Your submission may address any aspect of the discussion document, but we would appreciate you paying particular attention to the questions posed throughout and listed in this form. You may answer some or all of the questions. To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, you should explain your rationale and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

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Objectives for the contribution

1a. We have set the following three objectives for our contribution:

- it is seen as a fair and ambitious contribution – both by international and domestic audiences
- costs and impacts on society are managed appropriately
- it must guide New Zealand over the long term in the global transition to a low emissions world.

Do you agree with these objectives for our contribution?

- Yes
 No

1b. What is most important to you?

A clear path to a zero carbon future. New Zealand leading in the 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?

New Zealand has an unusual emissions profile, with over 40% coming from agricultural animals. While new money has funded successful research in this area, the emissions are serious, given that methane has a greater impact than CO₂. I think NZ has to limit the spread of intensive dairying and incorporate external costs to the environment for all agriculture, including the costs of water supply and effluent disposal. There needs to be more stringent regulation in this area. There also needs to be stronger support for forestry and either strengthening of the emissions trading scheme or else a return to a good carbon tax.

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 do you think would be a reasonable impact on annual household consumption?

Of your alternatives, I'd go for the 40% reduction by 2030. But the cost of doing less has not been factored in in your document. Everyone must contribute, especially the farmers. Those earning >\$100,000 pa should contribute more like \$5000, so poorer families contribute less. But yes, we need to reduce consumerism. Those with money need to contribute much more than beneficiaries or those on low incomes. A strong emissions trading scheme should place the onus on those producing the emissions. Support for those moving to electric cars or off grid alternative energy production (subsidies or a tax reduction) would help too. Business and the growth economy got us into this mess; business should be a major player in leading our country to a carbon zero future.

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?

There should be less emphasis on new roads and more on electric or hybrid technology and smart rail options. I could see NZ leading in biofuel production, but I would rather the funding was spent on supporting ocean energy projects, such as wave or tidal energy production. Solar and wind technology is already taking off and the technology is improving very fast, so I can see these alternatives offering input from residential homes to the grid. All new houses should need to pass certain "green" standards and should have rainwater storage, as well as solar panels. I can see water becoming a major problem in NZ in the near future, as droughts kick in with more ferocity and extreme weather events cause disruption of normal supply. All homes need rainwater storage for the former and higher standards for disruption from cyclones and flooding. Services need to be slowly withdrawn from coastal properties over the next 20-50 years, where sea level rise will affect them.

Summary

5. How should New Zealand take into account the future uncertainties of technologies and costs when setting its target?

See attached submission.

Other comments

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

See submission following.

When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to climate.contribution@mfe.govt.nz or post to Climate Change Contribution Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 June 2015.



21 May 2015

Submission on New Zealand's Climate Change Target

The first points I want to make concern the ridiculous **consultation process**. The discussion document came out in early May, giving less than a month for submissions. The public meetings were very poorly advertised at extremely short notice and in at least two cases, the meetings were changed to bigger venues at the very last minute. This made the cynical amongst us even more convinced at the total insincerity of the consultation process. No Ministers or MPs capable of giving answers to questions from the floor fronted up to the Wellington meeting on 19 May, leaving government officials frustrated and with egg on their faces. It is not their fault the Government has no decent policy on climate, but they were certainly made to see that essentially they needed to become responsible for the outcome. This amounts to cowardice and bad governance on the part of the MPs that should have been there. Climate Minister Tim Groser (I am far too important to attend a Public Meeting Tim Groser) needs to realise that consultation demands engagement with the constituency. It is his name that will go down in history as the one who sat on his hands. It appears that more time, money and attention are being given to consultation over a new flag, than to the biggest global issue ever faced by humans. In summary, the co-called consultation appears insincere and a large proportion of voters are convinced that the results of such consultation will not be listened to.

The **Consultation document** addresses several major issues inadequately: "look not for whom the bell tolls ..." sprung to mind when read it. Response to climate change requires a cross party, cross-demographic approach. Yes, the unlimited growth economic business model got us here and now we all have to work together to find a better way to live on this planet. It isn't a matter of the words you choose – sustainable, resilient, organic, efficient – everyone will pay in the long run if the planet warms by 4-6°C, which is what we seem to be headed for. Everyone needs to be on board with new policy that shows New Zealand can lead the world in response to climate change. This means reducing the dreadful inequities in our communities, supporting those leading the way into new economic and environmental models, as well as those in health, education and innovation. It is time to admit that the ETS didn't work and we need a carbon tax, a bit like this new not-a-capital-gains tax being introduced to fix the Auckland housing bubble.

Economics and energy: You can't have your cake and eat it too, at the expense of the most vulnerable in our society. Personally, I think neo-liberal ideas must go, now. Where growth is everything in a finite system, everyone loses, which is why we are seeing a huge and growing inequity in New Zealand. We have refugee crises throughout the world, many a result of dwindling resource access. We need an economic system that provides equity to New Zealanders, meaning that everyone pays for the changes that have got to come in public transport, education, promotion of forestry and tree/garden planting in urban and rural landscapes. We need to exchange policies of extraction of and dependency on fossil fuels, to those policies that commit New Zealand to a zero carbon emission future and

reform the electricity markets by guaranteeing priority access to the grid for renewable power generators and support for electric vehicles. Build our geothermal resource and promote and support new ocean energy projects, such as tidal power. The Government also needs to change its current obsession with road building to invest in smart rail and public transport infrastructures, throughout NZ and not just in Auckland.

Forestry: NZ used to have a world-leading forestry industry. We need incentives to grow forests (not just *pinus radiata*, but food forests and forests for alternative biofuels) to harness the enormous potential in production of timber, paper and sustainable transport fuels internationally. It has been estimated that this could create tens of thousands of jobs in the forestry sector and help reduce our oil imports bill by \$7billion each year.

Education: New Zealand needs to include the realities of climate change in all secondary school curricula and encourage more sustainable living practices, with less consumerism. We need to train all New Zealanders how to grow their own food and cook it, how to measure their carbon footprint and how to see themselves as part of the world environment. We need to teach family planning and contraception from an early age, as part of the contribution to controlling the global population. In other words, we need to teach global mindfulness.

Agriculture: In order for New Zealand's agriculture to become climate friendly, we must start to manage intensive dairy farming. All agricultural budgets need to build in the costs of water use, environmental degradation, and cadmium build up in our soils from superphosphate application. NZ farmers shouldn't be freeloaders on the rest of us. Government needs to reward and support best practice farming, not just those who earn most from selling their farms to foreigners. We need to come down hard on those not dealing with stock effluent or excess water use. We need to take another transparent and open look at the use of drought resistant pasture grasses/herbage and consult again over GM applications on a case-by-case basis. The funding of research on methane emissions from ruminants is laudable and yielding novel results that may help. Until that research comes on line in the paddock, New Zealand needs to curb the number of ruminants it grows in this country, not to mention regulate the amount of palm kernel now being imported to feed them.

Leadership: New Zealanders are hungry for leaders who will show them how to plan for a better future. Just consider the number of young people strongly submitting during consultation meetings and the rise and rise of Generation Zero. People want our Government to be clear, transparent, open and strong, with clear paths and policies towards reduction of emissions. Be the leaders, rather than hiding from the voters. Cross party policies are now required. Transparency in government is so needed – just look at the trivial, flippant nature of the debate in Parliament. No more dirty politics behind closed doors.

New Zealand needs to commit to 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 and aim for a zero carbon economy with 100% renewable energy by 2050. Nothing else is good enough. This will mean a comprehensive policy that **MUST** include all farmers, especially dairy, and forestry. If France and Germany are committed, so should we be: Merkel and Hollande said in a joint statement that both countries "are firmly decided to take all efforts to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and binding U.N. climate agreement by the end of this year in Paris."

Come on Mr Groser! We need a real action plan to address our future. Stop making politics a dirty word and **represent us**.

Sincerely,



Jean S Fleming
Professor Emerita in Science Communication