

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?

That New Zealand makes a stand to responsibly set targets for net emissions alone and all factors are taken into account in setting these levels.

In the case of agricultural emissions, the calculation of these levels have been set as the number of livestock at a certain date multiplied by a factor by a largely northern hemisphere organisation. The resulting figure does not take into account any mitigating factors whatsoever.

In my research, I have had NZ agricultural scientist commentaries back that indicate that to introduce pastoral mitigating factors was too difficult in the case of formulating the Kyoto Protocols, thereby unfairly weighting New Zealand agricultural emissions.

The actual evidence by measurement of atmospheric gases from Baring Head in Wellington would indicate that while there is fractional increment over time, when other factors are overlaid on that data (eg the numbers of vehicles worldwide at any given time) the argument of linking global warming directly to the increment of CO2 goes out the window let alone New Zealand's contribution.

To the contrary, there could be and is an argument that New Zealand Agriculture makes a major contribution to the mitigation of manmade CO2. Actual Methane levels and any incrementation show no justification in alarm, rather commitment to management if and where necessary.

It is important to me that we have a fair discussion and solution that is relevant to New Zealand and it's economy while taking into account that it is a worldwide responsibility and not simply the responsibility to satisfy a very vocal interest group.

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?

As indicated above, New Zealand needs to take a lead in what actual and economic contribution is responsible for our country. This needs to be based on actual, measured and mitigated net levels of emissions and not a contrived and unmitigated figure.

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?

The level of cost should be minimal if at all. Education on responsible behaviour which is our responsibility would be far more effective.

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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?

Summary

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

As this is a highly politicised subject and opinions are very polarised, every effort must be made to focus on actual trends and valid science rather than assumptions and questionable computer modelling.

It is vital that costs are taken into account and balanced in any decision proceeded with. The world requires a considerable level of food production incremented over time with New Zealand a key player in this production. Any management needs to keep a focus upon this along with an awareness of how we achieve the production we do. Generally it is the result of the entrepreneurial skills of our New Zealand farmers who battle increasing costs while producing large volumes of commodity foods.

Destroy that and New Zealand faces a bleak future.

As a retired farmer, I have a deep concern for the future of New Zealand agriculture as it becomes buried in more and more regulation and cost. There is far less young New Zealanders making a career of agriculture, just check our graduate figures alone. We import dairy farm and horticultural labour as our own no longer want to make the effort and take on what is perceived a tough and difficult job.

Make our base industry an uneconomic one - farmers already and naturally understand the necessity of responsible environmental husbandry - and we will quickly become just another little "pacific paradise" begging for aid.

Other comments

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